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Teachers 'mad' not to discuss pay offer

By David Palfister
With both sides in the 12-week teachers' dispute in disarray, Sir Keith Joseph, yesterday asked striking teachers not to discuss the 4 per cent pay offer.

The Education Secretary said it was wrong and totally unacceptable that teachers should discuss the offer. "It is also futile. No amount of disruptive action will change the fact that their claim for £1,200 for every teacher is not remotely 'affordable'."

In a press statement issued by the Conservative Central Office, he said that resources for education had to be tied to economic performance.

It was a question of what the country could afford for public services "at a time when we are seeking to

store our trading competitiveness and a long period of relative economic decline."

Sir Keith's oblique accusations of disloyalty were couched later with remarks on BBC radio in which he said teachers "seem to be maximising the damage to the children at minimum cost to themselves. That is scarcely professional."

In his second statement, Sir Keith accused teachers of weeping crocodile tears, and pretending that the prosecution of a pay claim was in defence of the education service. He went on: "Strikes will get the teachers nowhere. They know that. Strikes simply hurt the children."

Sir Keith said the unions had been offered a 4 per cent pay rise, arbitration, reform of the pay structure, and resumed negotiations in the Burnham Committee. The only way in which they could now win more money was by agreeing to a reformed pay structure and changes to their working practices which would benefit pupils.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Evans accused

THE return of the TGWU general secretaryship ballot has got off to an acrimonious start with the retiring general secretary, Mr. Moss Evans, being accused of bias. Back page.

Act of defiance

MR DENISE BOND was resisting calls for his resignation as president of Equity, the actors' union, for appearing in South Africa. Page 2.

Riots subdued

RIOTING by the poor from Algeria's capital was subdued with tear gas and water cannon. Page 3.

Needle match

GREENPAC leader David McTaggart sharpens the needles. Governments and companies jump when his staff use them. Page 2.

Police power

BRITAIN'S police are training for their extended powers as the new complaints authority begins operating. Reports, page 4.

Violence vote

DERRY's non-violent Catholics are trying to convince their young that civic action is better than bullets. Local elections may show the result. Page 3.

The weather

MAINLY dry. Details, back page.

NCCL nod for rightwing aid

By Stephen Cook
The National Council for Civil Liberties yesterday reassured its policy of denying help to such organisations as the National Front. But it passed two resolutions which appear to allow the NCCL to give aid to individuals with extreme rightwing views.

The future of Mr Larry Gostin, the general secretary of the council, is in doubt. It was clear that he was at loggerheads with much of the membership over the

Leader comment, page 12

two issues, and the resolution over the miners went against a speech by him.

He declined to say later whether he would resign, and said: "It is a sad day for the NCCL, but it remains a great movement."

The meeting decided that the inquiry into the miners' strike was wrong to say in its interim report that "the freedom not to take part in a strike is as much a fundamental right as the right to strike."

This was a false suggestion, the meeting decided, and the inquiry team had exceeded its terms of reference and defended "property and individual rights over and against collective rights."

The passing of a resolution not to endorse the report by 415 votes to 139 was greeted by prolonged applause. Mr Gostin said it involved a selective approach to civil liberties, and would reduce the NCCL's credibility.

Egyptians free 'plot' Britons

From Kathryn Davies
Two Britons accused by the Egyptian authorities of involvement in a conspiracy to kill an exiled opponent of the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, are to be deported from Cairo within the next few days without formal charges having been brought against them at any stage.

Mr Godfrey Shiner, aged 47, a Coventry-based engineering consultant who was released on £2,000 bail two months ago, has been told to collect his passport from the Egyptian state prosecutor's office.

Mr Anthony Gill, who has remained in custody since the accusations last November, is also to be deported to Britain. Two Maltese also accused by the Egyptians are to be flown directly to Malta.

The two Britons were interviewed by officers from Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch during their detention, but yesterday police sources would not discuss whether they wanted to interview at their own request.

Egyptian police gave no reason for not laying formal charges against any of the men, who the Egyptians had accused of taking part in a conspiracy to murder Mr Abdel-Hamid Bakoush, a former Libyan prime minister who lives in Cairo.

Mr Bakoush is the secretary-general of the Libyan Liberation Organisation dedicated to the downfall of Colonel Gaddafi's government.

According to Mr Ahmed Rasbida, Egypt's interior minister, Egyptian security forces had an attempt to murder Mr Bakoush and mounted their own operation to persuade Colonel Gaddafi that the plot had succeeded.

Fake photographs of Mr Bakoush, apparently riddled with bullets, were sent to Libyan government agents, who then dramatically announced the exile's death on Libyan radio.

Mr Shiner has consistently denied during his three months in detention that he was involved in the affair, saying that he flew to Cairo at the urgent request of Mr Gill who telephoned him to say that he had been badly injured in a road accident and needed help to pay his hospital bill.

Mr Shiner, who spent six years representing British companies in Libya, denied having any connection with the Libyan government or its agents' activities in Britain.

Mr Gill signed a lengthy confession while in custody saying that he had been sent to recruit hit men to kill Mr Bakoush. The hit men turned out to be Egyptian agents.

Druze seize more Christian territory

From David Hirst
in Jijeh, near Sidon
AS Muslim militiamen overran more Christian villages in the hills above Sidon yesterday, Druze militiamen seized control of adjoining Christian-dominated territory north of the Awali River.

The Druzes have thereby rounded out their autonomous "canton," and dealt another heavy blow to President Gemayel's regime, to the anti-Gemayel Christian rebels, and to the Christian community in general.

In a short, sharp campaign, that began after midnight and was over by dawn, Walid Jumblatt's Druzes wiped out the Lebanese Forces, the breakaway Phalangist militia under the command of Dr Saif Samir Geagea, in a string of positions along some eight miles of the al-Kharroub coastline north of the Awali River.

By midday, the coastal road was open to traffic. Along the length of it, the Druzes, joined by their allies of the Shufite organisation Amal, were still searching for Phalangist, setting fire to Phalangist premises, and including in some casual looting.

We had been warning the Phalangists that they had better leave. But they did not. But our attack took them by surprise," said Abu Jihad, a Druze commander in Jijeh.

"This is what happens to agents," he said, pointing to the incinerated remains of a car and its occupant.

Two other mangled corpses, in civilian clothes, lay by the roadside. "They

Picture, and other Middle East reports, page 8

Livingstone selected for Brent East seat

By Stephen Cook
Mr Ken Livingstone was selected yesterday as the Labour Party candidate for the Brent East seat.

The Greater London Council leader beat off three other candidates in the selection

into the local party, refused to participate in yesterday's meeting.

Mr Ken Livingstone, who had been a Labour councillor in the council since 1981, was selected by a vote of 100 to 70.

The Greater London Council leader beat off three other candidates in the selection

meeting to win by 50 votes to 20 in the second ballot against Mr Jack Westminister, councillor, West Ham South.

"Brent East's sitting MP, Mr Ken Ffrench, who last Friday took on a writ against Labour's national executive for failing to set up an inquiry

Turn to back page, col. 5

Labour prepares plans to restore immunities to trade unions

By Colin Brown
Political Staff
Options for restoring trade union immunities removed by the present government, including a possible trade union bill of rights, are being considered by Labour Party leaders, the Shadow Chancellor, Mr Roy Hattersley, confirmed yesterday.

The options were presented in a confidential report to the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee by the retiring Labour Party general secretary, Mr Jim Morrison, and are likely to form a crucial part of the party's general election manifesto.

Labour leaders believe that a bill of rights would be possible to present to the public and would be politically

Bill of rights proposed, page 2

more acceptable than simply restoring immunities from strike action.

But they also acknowledge the warnings given in Mr Morrison's report that a bill of rights could involve the unions in legal wrangles which the party has sought to avoid.

Mr Hattersley, interviewed on ITV's World This Week programme, refused to be drawn on which of the options he preferred.

It is understood that he and other party leaders are anxious to avoid alienating the union leaders by commenting about the options before they can be considered by a liaison sub-committee.

They are conscious that Mrs Thatcher has been able to command some public support for her trade union reforms and some union leaders would not be satisfied with anything less than the complete restoration of the immunities.

However, the outcome is unlikely to go for decision to the Labour party annual conference or the TUC until next year.

The TUC-Labour Party liaison committee is more ur-

gently discussing the detailed policy statement which will form the basis of the "Compact" between Labour and the trade unions, which Mr Hattersley officially offered last Monday.

Mr Hattersley's offer, significantly, came only hours after a meeting of the liaison committee had discussed one of the series of draft reports on the labour deal with the unions.

Although specific mention of the "national economic assessment" - regarded by Labour's critics as a euphemism for a pay norm - has been omitted, Mr Hattersley is satisfied that when it is presented to the Labour Party conference and the TUC this autumn, it will imply an understanding on wage restraint.

Yesterday Mr Hattersley stressed the importance of drawing employers into the understanding on the economy between the union Labour government and the unions.

He disclosed that he had consulted the CBI before launching his attack on the budget in the Commons. This, he said, was one of the reasons why the Opposition "won" the debate on the budget.

The other difficult area to be thrashed out for the general election was the

Turn to back page, col. 3

Jobs warning to PM

By our Industrial Staff
Another leading trade representative body has attacked Government complacency over the economic situation, warning of a further decline in manufacturing and continued job losses unless urgent action is taken.

The influential Association of British Chambers of Commerce says in evidence due to be given shortly to the Lords Select Committee on the economy, that the United Kingdom's manufacturing trade del-

ict - showing no signs of diminishing

Its conclusions are supported by a new series of forecasts issued today by the International Monetary Fund which says that Britain's economic performance can be expected to lag behind that of other industrialised nations over the next two years, with unemployment rising from 12.7 per cent to 13 per cent this year.

Reports, page 22; Agenda, page 11

Fowler confident on reforms

By Colin Brown
Treasury challenges to Mr Norman Fowler's social security reviews are to be resolved at a committee before Thursday's Cabinet meeting.

Ministers insisted yesterday that there was no deep division between Mr Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, and the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson.

The Treasury is concerned about a number of detailed points, including the cost of switching the State Earnings Related Pensions Scheme to private insurance firms.

But the Treasury circulated a paper on tax and social security shortly before last week's Cabinet meeting which postponed discussion of the reviews.

Although Mr Fowler was irritated that the Treasury paper should be introduced only 24 hours before the meeting it was emphasised that this was largely due to the Chancellor's commitments abroad.

Mr Fowler remains confident that his package will be accepted largely unchanged.

Hugo Young, page 12

INSIDE

Agenda	11
Arts, reviews	21
Business & finance	22, 23
Crosswords	28, 30
Guardian Women	20
Home News	2-4, 30
Letters	12
Overseas News	6, 8-10
Media	13-18
Motoring	24
Sports News	24-27
TV & RADIO	28
ENTERTAINMENTS	28
PERSONAL	29

This week

Today

MILLENNIAL MANSIONS
The third millennium is only 15 years away: who will shape our cities from the year 2000? Martin Farley begins a three-part study of the men who will build the future from the uncertainties of the present.

DEATH OF A PAPER
Tomorrow will be the last issue of the Raul Daily Mail, one of the most courageous newspapers in South Africa. Laurence Gandar reflects on its fate. The Media Page, page 13

PULPIT AND POLITICS
Bishops must avoid making statements which are merely matters of opinion, argues John Selwyn Gummer. Agenda, page 10

PLUS POSY



Tomorrow

STRICKEN SCHOOLS
If Sir Keith Joseph doesn't stop messing about, education in inner London will collapse altogether, warns Education Guardian.

AFTER FIDO
For the very young or the very old, the death of a favourite pet can be disastrous. Guardian Women reports

Wednesday

THE MIRACLE WORKER
The book costs £37 and 200,000 people have bought it. It is a course in how to perform your own miracles. Society Tomorrow takes a careful look

A simple plan for your retirement that could pay you £30,000 a year (And why you'll need it)

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Legal & General

Labour ponders a bill of rights for trade unionists

LABOUR Party leaders are considering replacing the present Government's employment legislation with a bill of rights for trade unionists on the return of a Labour administration.

Discussion is still at an early stage, but the TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee has already considered a lengthy paper from the party's retiring general secretary, Mr Jim Mortimer.

The paper says: "It is not sufficient to ask for the repeal of the Employment Act 1980, 1982 and the Trade Union Act 1984. Something new has to be put in their place."

Mr Mortimer's paper attempts to portray even-handedly a conflicting choice between providing new statutory rights for trade unions and restoring union immunity from legal action, the traditional choice favoured

Repealing the union laws of the Tories is not enough, says Mr Jim Mortimer (right). Patrick Wintour examines the options for reform he has set out for his party

by the labour movement. Some Labour strategists argue that new statutory rights might be more politically appealing than simple repeal of widely popular legislation.

Such a move might be seen to usher in a new era of industrial relations rather than a simple restoration of the "bad old days of the 1970s and 80s." Any new rights could be balanced by giving unions new responsibilities, it is argued.

Mr John Prescott, Labour's employment spokesman, said yesterday: "I approach this issue with an open mind. People should not assume that it will be a simple return to the legislative position of ten years ago. It's time to look at fresh

at the issue of industrial citizenship and the rights of trade unions in our society." It is widely recognised that the issue threatens to be one of the most sensitive facing the Labour Party in its attempt to present a new modern image to the electorate. The present intention is to prepare a statement for next year's party conference. The conference this year will hear a statement on full employment and planning.

Mr Mortimer, a highly respected former chairman of the Conciliation and Arbitration Service points out in his paper: "The assertion of statutory rights has the appearance of attraction of providing a framework of readily understood rules."

"Thus, such a framework of rights might include the right to organise a trade union, to bargain collectively, to strike, to seek to provide solidarity action, peacefully to demonstrate and to seek to persuade others in the course of a dispute and to conduct the affairs of a trade union without state interference."

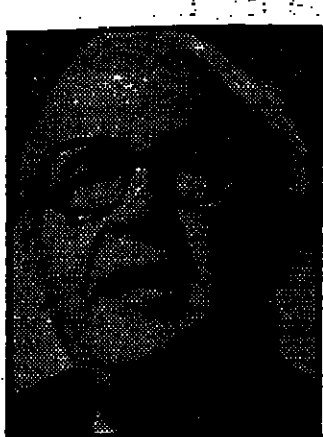
But in a strong argument against such a course, Mr Mortimer says: "It is not possible simultaneously to provide positive legal rights, but yet to keep the courts out of industrial relations."

The interpretation of these rights falls to the courts. "The almost universal experience is that the courts come to see it as their duty to lay

down the limits of these rights. Judicial interpretation may be very different from that intended by the legislature."

Mr Mortimer also points out that the provision of positive rights would go against the grain of previous industrial relations legislation, which had been intended to exclude trade disputes from judicial review by the courts. Substantial parts of this legislation are still on the statute book.

Although attempting to present a balanced review of the choice facing the Labour movement, Mr Mortimer appears to prefer restoration and extension of union immunity while finding a means of introducing supporting legislation "which, without inviting



the frequent intervention of the courts, would nevertheless encourage trade union organisation, trade union recognition and collective bargaining."

tion, reintroducing the immunity which those statutes abolished and introducing "state sponsored" proposals to collective bargaining, such as the right of representation already enshrined in the Health and Safety at Work Act.

The paper also suggests a radical overhaul of trade union rights to spend money on politics, by calling for an end to the distinction between a union's political and general funds under the Trade Union Act 1913.

Mr Mortimer comments: "The trade union movement lived with the 1913 act not because it was acceptable in principle, but because in practice it did not seriously impede most unions from pursuing political objectives."

Now that the Conservative Party has deliberately upset this arrangement without any corresponding limita-

tion on companies, there is no reason why the Labour Party should feel inhibited in changing the law to restore to unions their full right to determine how to spend their money.

Mr Mortimer suggests specific measures to strengthen trade union rights. These include a new interpretation of the grounds for dismissal, and rights to strike without facing the threat of dismissal, to facilities to hold union meetings at work places, greater participation at work and unemployment pay where a worker is laid off because of a strike.

A court's right to sequester a union's funds would be abolished, and there would be a right to travel to picket without police prevention on the grounds of "reasonable grounds for apprehending a breach of the peace."

Greenpeace sets its target on arms race

Goliaths face a David who is tough, clever and likes to win. Report by Paul Brown

TWO Greenpeace ships set sail last week for the summer's campaigning, rising apprehension in governments and big companies.

Companies know that the attentions of Greenpeace could cost them a lot of money by forcing them to clean up pollution. Governments fear the power of adverse publicity and the new green vote.

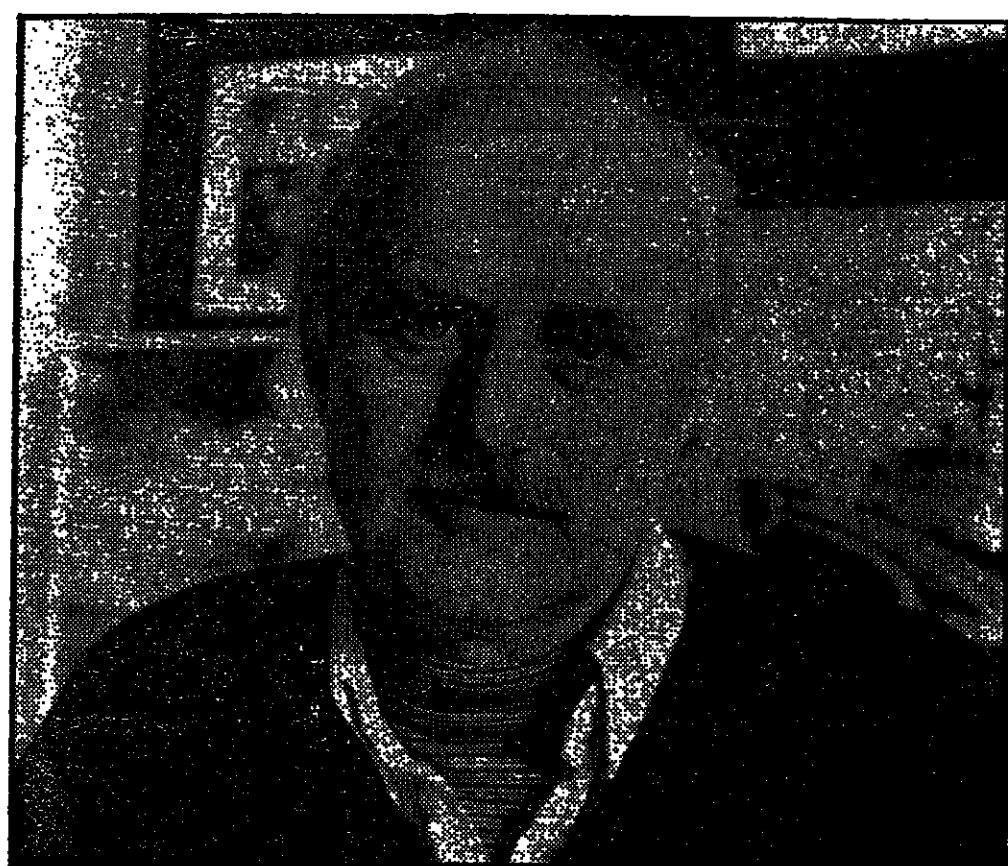
Yet, this troublesome organisation is tiny and run on a shoestring. At the international headquarters at Glastonbury, there is a staff of 60, most of whom seem to be elsewhere in the world on a campaign.

The oldest member of the staff, 52, is David McTaggart, the chairman of the international board and founder of Greenpeace. He rarely gives interviews and shuns personal publicity although 12 years ago his picture was on the world's front pages as he took on the French in the Pacific.

In successive years, his yacht was rammed by the French navy and he was beaten up by his commandos. But he succeeded in stopping the atmospheric nuclear tests at Mururoa.

McTaggart says his main quarrel with the French was not the nuclear testing but the fact they were acting in a manner contrary to the law of the sea, preventing him sailing where he wanted to in the Pacific by cordoning off vast tracts of international waters.

His defence of the oceans and things that live in it have been the cornerstone of Greenpeace success. Helping



David McTaggart gives needle-sharp leadership to Greenpeace. Picture by Frank Martin

small furry animals and whales has brought support from millions of people and, despite the organisation's lack of resources and manpower, his volunteers have enormous success in winning animal slaughter and pollution.

Sitting behind a desk and talking to national headquarters in 16 countries on the phone, Mr McTaggart is brisk and his language peppered with four-letter words. Behind the curious mixture

of bravado and self-deprecation is a clear-thinking, tough man, who is planning two years ahead on how best to bring pressure to bear on governments.

This year his target is to get some advance on nuclear test bans and disarmament. He has found his weak link in Article 6 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and he is going for the jugular of the United States the Soviet Union and Britain. The superpowers have one

thing in common—wanting as few other countries as possible to have the bomb. But the 124 nations who signed the non-proliferation treaty did so on the promise of the big powers in Article 6 that they would make progress towards nuclear and general disarmament.

So while the 124 countries have kept their side of the bargain the superpowers have not. McTaggart is beginning to point out that in September when the NPT is

reviewed, the treaty could begin to crumble, since the Soviet Union, America and Britain have all consistently broken it.

He has a list of countries including Argentina which are on the verge of acquiring their own bombs, but which are prepared to sign the treaty if the great powers were keeping their end of the bargain.

With every word spoken on the treaty by leading politicians from every country held in computer and ready to be repeated at a politically useful moment, Mr McTaggart is getting ready for September with behind-the-scenes contacts with many governments.

It is also no accident that the Rainbow Warrior is sailing for the US missile testing range in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific and then will go onwards to try and interfere with French tests at Mururoa. This time the objective is the underground testing programme.

Mr McTaggart believes that fears over what will happen at the treaty review conference in September are the main reasons for the slow pace at the peace talks in Geneva. Mr McTaggart's chances of influencing the nuclear arms race appear limited, but his motto is "never take anything on unless you know you can win."

Four Greenpeace men failed to stop a ship-dumping chemical waste in the North Sea 12 miles off the coast where Dutch and Belgian territorial waters meet.

McTaggart said yesterday that the four chained themselves to discharge pipes of the Walsby Tanker in the Schelde estuary on Saturday night, but 1,000 tons of waste from the Bayer plant at Antwerp, Belgium, were discharged through other pipes below water level.

Whitehall top brass rebel on pay plan

By Richard Norton-Taylor

The Government has upset Whitehall permanent secretaries — its most senior civil servants — by proposing differential rates of pay for them, fixed according to the relative value and importance attached to the work of departments.

The proposal is one of the main reasons why this year's report of the Top Salaries Review Body, chaired by Lord Plowden, has been delayed and is now unlikely to be sent to the Prime Minister before June.

The large majority of permanent secretaries say that the plan is a diversion from the main issue, namely the relatively low salaries they get compared to senior executives in the private sector. They have passed on their doubts to the First Division Association, which represents about 8,000 senior Whitehall officials.

Under the Government's plan, the task of the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, for example, could be regarded as far less onerous than that of his counterpart at the Department of Trade and Industry.

If salaries were determined according to the number of officials in a particular department — the simplest criterion — then the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence would get paid significantly more than the permanent secretary of the Foreign Office.

Permanent secretaries have been quick to point out that many other factors which can rapidly change would have to be taken into account, including the priorities of the government of the day or the amount and controversial nature of legislation affecting the work of a particular department.

Differential pay rates, they say, would harm the morale of officials in the department whose permanent secretary came low in the pecking order. And ministers might feel that their status was related to the relative position of their permanent secretary.

Permanent secretaries also argue that the pay differential would need to be at least £5,000. This would have implications for the salaries of other senior Whitehall posts.

There are about 25 permanent secretaries who now get £24,500 a year. The two most senior Whitehall officials have traditionally earned more: the cabinet secretary and the head of the Treasury get £51,250.

Members of the review body argue that they have a sensitive job anyway in proposing pay increases based on salaries in the private sector for senior officials at a time when the Government is holding down pay in the Civil Service. They are no more enthusiastic about the Government's new plan than permanent secretaries.

Permanent secretaries are already far from happy about another government suggestion, making them responsible for handing out individual merit awards to other senior officials.

Permanent secretaries argue that the plan could be divisive and that it is difficult to find acceptable criteria to measure performance.

Officials in five Whitehall departments strongly criticise the Government's scheme in motions to be debated at the annual conference next month of the First Division Association.

They say that, since it relies on subjective judgments, the system threatens "professional standards of impartiality" in the Civil Service.

Senior tax inspectors, who are among the critics of the scheme, suggest that the money would be better spent on reducing the gap in pay between the Civil Service and the private sector. The London tax inspectors' branch says that officials who benefit from the scheme should pass on the money to charity.

Equity leader refuses to quit over Natal tour

By Paul Keel

Mr Derek Bond was last night resisting calls for his resignation as president of the actors' union, Equity.

At a bitter and rowdy session of the union's annual meeting, his recent acting visit to South Africa was overwhelmingly condemned as a betrayal of Equity's stand against apartheid.

The 65-year-old actor, who as president of the union had chaired the debate in which speaker after speaker denounced his decision to appear in a production of J. B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, which toured Natal last autumn, defied three motions critical of his behaviour which were passed at the Royal Theatre in London yesterday.

After the votes had been cast members went into uproar with chants of "out, out, out" delivered by actors who turned their backs on the platform.

But Mr Bond asserted his right under the union's constitution to hold political views without their interfering with his professional life.

At a press conference after he said he had roundly condemned apartheid on television, radio, and in press interviews during his four-week stay in South Africa, and that his critics were mistaken in assuming he had refused to acknowledge this.

He regarded the South African system of government as abhorrent, but believed that the exchange of ideas — particularly the liberal ideas espoused by J. B. Priestley — benefited the campaign to end apartheid.

Only one of 15 speakers yesterday supported him, and he was jeered for his comments. By contrast there were



Derek Bond — condemned apartheid

standing ovations from the floor for many who attacked Mr Bond.

One, the actor Hugh Manning, a former president of Equity, accused him of betraying the trust which the members had given him.

"You have insulted our Afro-Asian members. You have insulted that vast majority in South Africa who are the victims of apartheid," Mr Manning said.

Ms Vanessa Redgrave called for a tightening up of the Equity rule book, which at present only advises members against performing in South Africa.

She said it should become an instruction, and any member flouting it should be expelled from the union.

Only the union's ruling council, which elects the president, can unseat him, and it was felt that this was most unlikely to happen when the council meets tomorrow.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fairground inquiry

HEALTH and Safety Executive officials were yesterday inspecting the badly-damaged fairground ride at Dover, Kent, that collapsed on Saturday injuring 17 young people, aged 11 to 21.

Four girls and a boy, aged 11 to 16, are still in hospital suffering from broken limbs and other injuries but were said to be making good progress. Scores of people saw the ride, called the Paratrooper, crash to the ground at the fair in the town centre.

Animal rights protesters held

FIFTEEN animal rights protesters were arrested after scuffling with police during a demonstration against laboratory experiments at the Toxical Laboratories at Ladbury, Hertfordshire.

The march was part of a national day of action mainly aimed at laboratories which protesters claim carry out tests that involve dropping toxic substances into the eyes of rabbits to check for irritation. Fighting broke out when about 200 demonstrators got into a private field adjoining the laboratories and started to press against a security fence.

Book on dangers of pill attacked

THE Family Planning Association yesterday attacked a book which claims that no one can safely take the contraceptive pill, and that it has caused "a decade of ill-health."

But the FPA said that the book did a "considerable disservice to women taking the pill in Britain." The views expressed in the book, *The Bitter Pill*, by Dr Ellen Grant, were not shared by the majority of experts.

OBITUARY

Cricket editor

GORDON ROSS, editor of the *Playfair* Cricket Annual and the *Cricket Quarterly*, died at Lord's cricket ground on Saturday.

Appreciation, page 25

Tory peer ready with amendment ploy if Lords reject local government bill

By Collis Brown, Political Staff

Environment ministers appear ready to use an amendment to the Local Government Bill — beginning its 11-day committee stage in the Lords today — as a compromise if they suffer a defeat on demands for a strategic authority for the capital.

Lord Sandford, a Tory peer, yesterday denied that his amendment is being used as a "stalking horse" for the Government but he confirmed that he would not press for a vote when it arises for debate, probably on Tuesday.

This would enable it to be introduced at a later stage. The amendment tabled by Lord Sandford, president of the Association of District Councils, would give statutory status to the standing conference on strategic planning for London and the South-east which he chairs.

It is understood that ministers may seek to offer the option if the Government is defeated on the central issue of an elected strategic authority.

Joseph faces court over closure

By Susan Tibbitt

A group of rightwing educationists, including the Conservative peer Baroness Cox, is taking legal action against the Education Secretary for failing to provide adequate choice of state schooling. Their case against Sir Keith Joseph brought under the Sex Discrimination Act, concerns the planned closure of a boys' school in Wembley on Sunday.

Leading Islamic scholars from around the world will address an expected audience of up to 3,000 on the finer points of their faith's ultimate authority. In lay language, the scholars will argue their collective wisdom has been hijacked by a minority sect supported by petrodollars.

The dispute has divided



Lord Sandford — no pressure for vote

for the capital to replace the Greater London Council facing abolition with the six metropolitan authorities.

Ministers have made it clear that if they are defeated in the Lords, they will insist on the decision being reversed in the Commons.

They will not allow an elected body to replace the GLC, because they believe it

will help to perpetuate the "evils" of County Hall. But they would be prepared however to accept an appointed strategic body with powers limited to planning.

Such a compromise is likely to be rejected as totally inadequate by the bill's opponents who are marshalling their forces behind two key amendments to defeat the Government this week.

One, replacing the GLC with a strategic authority for London, has been tabled by independent peer Lord Taylor with the support of the former Tory GLC leader, Lord Plummer; the other, tabled by four Tory peers led by Lord Robson would replace the metropolitan councils with county-wide authorities.

The measure's opponents privately accuse the Government of unprecedented arm twisting of Tory supporters.

Ministers have made it clear that if they are defeated in the Lords, they will insist on the decision being reversed in the Commons.

They will not allow an elected body to replace the GLC, because they believe it

Missile on a trail of destruction

By a Correspondent

A ROGUE guided missile brought panic and destruction to a peaceful neighbourhood when treasure hunters tried to cut it up.

The five ft six in. ground-to-air rocket was triggered when the two men who found it on an old weapons range in Essex tried to drill it open.

It exploded, careered out of a garage, smashed through four garden fences, demolished two concrete posts before burying itself three feet deep in a back garden in the next street. No-one was hurt but damage is expected to run into hundreds of pounds.

An Essex police spokesman said the men discovered the 1950s practice missile while they were exploring on Bradwell marshes, a former weapons testing range on the coast that had no warning but was still full of rocket fuel and they took it to their home in Stanford-le-Hope.

A spark triggered it into action as they set to work with their drill.

"It may have seemed amusing but it was an incredibly stupid thing to do. Someone could easily have been killed," said the spokesman. "Both men have been interviewed and are charged with theft and causing damage."

Army bomb disposal experts later dug up the rocket and took it away for examination.

Koran scholars bring Saudis to book

By Martyn Halsall, Churches Correspondent

A lingering theological dispute over a translation of the Koran, denied by devout pilgrims on the way to Mecca, will come to a head after 70 years in Wembley on Sunday.

Leading Islamic scholars from around the world will address an expected audience of up to 3,000 on the finer points of their faith's ultimate authority. In lay language, the scholars will argue their collective wisdom has been hijacked by a minority sect supported by petrodollars.

The dispute has divided

world Islam. The conference, said the World Islamic Mission in London "has been called in response to urgent demands from various parts of the world."

The mission claims that religious righteousness in Saudi Arabia has been appropriated by the Wahabi sect, representing fewer than 2 per cent of the world's 700 million Muslims. Scholars from India, Pakistan, Morocco, Kuwait and Tunisia will address a conference anxious to refute the non-theological argument that "what the Saudis say goes."

Since 1982, according to the

mission, the Saudi Arabian government has banned the Urdu translation of the Koran by the revered Indian scholar Ala Hazrat Sheikh-ul-Quran Ahmed Raza Khan Barailvi, whose grandson will be among the conference's speakers.

Another speaker, a Birmingham businessman, Mr Mohamed Gilani Siddiqui, said pilgrims arriving at Jeddah en route to Mecca had their Urdu translations seized.

Pilgrims had also been prevented from visiting the prophet's birthplace and forbidden to celebrate his birthday — by the sect,

which does not honour it. Mr Siddiqui, a mission executive member will propose that small delegations appeals to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, to respect the universal authority of Islamic scholars.

The Urdu translation contains the Arabic equivalent against each verse, so that linguistic purity is maintained and meaning can be checked. But in the words of theologians everywhere, it hopes the conference will prove to the West that what they have been told was "true Islam" is, in fact, false.

Brick smash

Several youths were helping police with inquiries after a brick thrown from an M5 motorway bridge near Exeter smashed the windscreen of a coach yesterday.

Aged 'should exercise'

By Penny Cheek

Elderly people should get out and take more exercise, according to several specialists writing in the newly launched magazine *New Age*, published by Age Concern, which is out today.

Many elderly people who suffer from stiff joints and a lack of stamina do so not because they are old, but simply because they are not taking enough exercise, says Professor Peter Feist, of the Queen's Medical Centre, Belfast.

In the report, which is aimed at people who work with the elderly, he says often after the old are to blame for discouraging them from being more active.

"Our natural instinct is to protect the old at every turn and to do everything for them," he says, adding that while safety and reducing risk

is important, "against this we must balance the greater danger to health of inactivity."

Last week, at a special one-day conference on the needs of the elderly, another Irish professor made a plea to doctors to cut down on the number of drugs prescribed to elderly patients.

Kevin O'Malley, professor of clinical pharmacology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, said that the older people get, the slower their ability to metabolise drugs, with the result that medicines tend to build up in the body for longer periods until they can be disposed of.

He also tried to dispel the popular myth that elderly people were forgetful when it came to taking their medicine. His own research studies had shown, on the contrary, that the elderly were very careful.

Minister bridges church gulf

From Bob Rodwell in Belfast

About 70 members of his Presbyterian congregation followed the Reverend David Armstrong across the road into the Roman Catholic church of Christ the King, at Linnavady, County Londonderry, yesterday, when he went to bid farewell to the town's Roman Catholics, before he leaves Northern Ireland with his wife and children on Wednesday.

Many members of both congregations were in tears as they said goodbye to the 37-year-old clergyman whose emotional gestures and close friendship with the neighbouring Catholic priest, Father Kevin Mullin, brought opposition from a small group of church-elders as well as verbal and physical abuse.

Now, the majority of the congregation of First Linnavady Presbyterian Church have signed a petition calling on the elders to quit and some church officers have resigned in protest at what they see as Mr Armstrong's banishment.

The petition is to be discussed at a presbytery meeting on May 7 and if the elders who oppose Mr Armstrong do not resign it will be taken to the next general assembly of the church, one of the organisers said.

Mr Armstrong is moving to Oxford with his wife and children for a six-month course before ordination into the Anglican Church and a post at St Aldate's, in Oxford.

He had been at Linnavady for less than two years and first aroused the opposition of elders when he visited the Catholic church opposite at Christmas 1983 to exchange greetings and to invite Father Mullin into his church.

The two clergymen repeated their visits last Christmas Day when there were scuffles involving demonstrators from the neighbouring Free Presbyterian Church.

Abuse and harassment aimed particularly at Mrs Armstrong and her children came to a peak last month when Mr Armstrong and Father Mullin visited the United States together to take part in a St Patrick's Day parade in Boston and make speeches on the theme of reconciliation.

All of the 330 seats in the Presbyterian church were taken yesterday for Mr Armstrong's last service. "There were only 30 regular worshippers when he first arrived," said caretaker, Mrs Philomena Dickson, one of those who has resigned in protest, adding that some people were "heartbroken" at his departure.



Mr Armstrong — across the road

'Freezing Guides' inquiry

The Girl Guides Association is to set up an inquiry into why Guides attending a parade on Saturday were not allowed to put on warm clothing when the temperature fell nearly to freezing.

About 50 of the 20,000 girls taking part were taken to hospital at Thornton Heath, south London, suffering from the cold, and a dozen were kept in overnight.

The parade, at Crystal Pal-

ace, which also had a freak snowfall, was to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Guides.

The father of one of the girls, Mr Lawrence Phillips, said the girls were suffering from hypothermia.

A spokesman for the association said yesterday that its chief commissioner, Lady Baden-Powell, had ordered a full investigation.

Diplomatic law review

By Colin Brown Political Staff

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University entrance 'getting tougher'

By John Fairhall Education Editor

Universities were asking for higher A-level grades and were turning away a distressing number of high quality applicants, according to the author of a guide to degree courses.

Medicine was particularly selective, said Mr Brian Heap at the launch of the new edition of his guide, Degree Course Offers, 1986.

Standards of entry had also risen in other subjects, Mr Heap said.

Of the 121 electrical and electronic engineering courses available in United Kingdom universities, 104 were asking for one B grade and two C or higher.

Mr Heap dismissed as "humbug" Sir Keith Joseph's assurance that higher education would give full credit to the Education Secretary's new AS levels in its admission procedures.

The AS levels, which will be worth half an A-level, are intended to broaden the sixth form curriculum.

Mr Heap asked: "What teacher is going to risk his or her students on this exam when such high grades at A-level are already being demanded?"

Degree Course Offers 1986, Careers Consultants Ltd, 12 Hill Rise, Richmond Hill, Surrey TW10 6UA, £10.95, £7.95 paperback.

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Nature council rethinks tactics

By Sarah Tirthait

The Nature Conservancy Council is reviewing prosecutions of landowners accused of damaging sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) after magistrates rejected two of three first three cases under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.

One prosecution of a Herefordshire farmer who allowed four acres of a species-rich meadow to be ploughed up fell this month because the council could not prove that the farmer had received papers notifying the land as an SSSI.

The land which included meadow saffron, a rare yellow crocus, cowslips and ox eye daisies, was used to grow swedes.

The council posted the papers once by first class mail and a second time by recorded delivery. However, the farmer's counsel convinced the magistrates at Kingston, Herefordshire, that there was no proof the farmer had received them.

He was not required to give evidence and was awarded costs of £1,437.

The council's second prosecutions, of a Welsh farmer who allowed a 20-acre herb-rich wet meadow to be ploughed, failed on a technicality of the wording of NCC papers sent and received by the farmer.

Magistrates at Ceredigion ruled that the papers, inviting comments on designation of the land as an SSSI, should instead have asked for objections.

The only case which has succeeded was against a Leicester-shire farmer who admitted destroying plants on 20 acres of acidic grassland by applying lime, and was fined £200.

His land included heath-spotted orchids, marsh violets and marsh arrow grass. The maximum fine, then £500, has been increased to £1,000.

A council spokesman said: "If we take anyone out to the site they can see it has been ploughed up and yet people can get away with it."

The council was rewriting its notification documents to point out the legal right to object to land being designated SSSIs and arranging for papers to be delivered personally to "awkward" landowners who might dispute they had received them through the post.

New powers for Police Complaints Authority

Stephen Cook reports on a system whose first job is to build public confidence in itself

THE Police Complaints Authority, the second attempt in the past 10 years to restore public confidence in the system of investigating complaints against the police, starts work today amid strong disagreements over its prospects.

The authority has the power of its predecessor, the Police Complaints Board of 1976, to review complaints and take issue with the police on whether there should be disciplinary charges against an officer.

But it will also have the duty to supervise in detail police conduct of all complaints involving death or

serious injury — about 200 a year — and the discretion to supervise any case where it thinks the public interest is involved.

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act, which establishes the authority also requires all police forces to set up a system for the informal resolution of lesser complaints by bringing together the people concerned to explain themselves.

Conciliation is expected to be useful in the 3,000 annual complaints about police incivility.

The Government believes that the authority, intended to be independent and to have a high public profile, will provide a "fair and workable" system.

But Labour and the Liberals point out that the new system is complex, and that the police will still be investigating themselves. They are sceptical about the authority, gaining public confidence.

The Police Federation, which represents officers below superintendent, says it is "ambivalent" about the authority.

It will not silence the critics calling for an independent corps of investigators, says Mr Tony Judge, the federation spokesman, and the federation itself would prefer an independent system. Many high-ranking officers say privately that an independent system is bound to come.

The federation welcomes a new provision allowing officers to be legally represented at hearings where they risk dismissal, demotion, or compulsory resignation, but is unhappy that the

federation will have to pay the lawyer, even if the charge is dismissed. Chairman of the authority is Sir Cecil Clothier, former Secretary of State for the Home Department, and the two vice-chairmen are Mr Roland Moyle, a former Labour health minister, and Rear-Admiral John Bell.

The 10 full-time authority members include lawyers, a black community relations specialist, administrators, and personnel managers. A leaflet explaining the new system is available from police stations.

Prompted by criticism that it is ignorant of police procedures, the authority has appointed Mr Frank Gutsell, former deputy chief constable of South Yorkshire, as full-time police adviser. A superintendent is being sought to help him.

The authority will have 48 staff and its own premises of the complaints board had 36 staff, and used a government building.

Sir Cyril Phillips, chairman of the outgoing board, welcomes the creation of the

authority because of what he calls its "high status, independence, and potentially-interventive role." In a recent article he wrote that it "comes close to achieving that necessary yet intricate balance between gaining the confidence of the public and acceptance by the police service."

Mr Paul Boateng, chairman of the Greater London Council police committee, says that "the authority is grossly inadequate in powers and resources" and that "nothing short of a totally independent system is going to meet the current crisis in public confidence".

Number of sex offences falling

By Malcolm Dean

The Howard League says in a report by a working party today that fewer than one out of every 150 offences recorded by the police was a sex offence.

It points out that the number of sex offences had decreased by 20 per cent in the last 10 years compared with an increase of 80 per cent for non-sexual violent offences.

The penal reform organisation's working party, which included a magistrate, prison governor, four doctors, and a

ONE third of all serious crime involves the theft of a vehicle or property inside it, according to a briefing paper published today by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro).

In 1982 some 350,000 motor vehicles were stolen and another 450,000 thefts from vehicles recorded. Of the people arrested for these crimes, 97 per cent were male. Three-quarters of those convicted were under 21.

prison psychologist, says that the present sex laws need to be made simpler, fairer, and more consistent.

Courts should base their decisions on whether an offender has used force, fraud, or undue influence.

The report says: "Sexual offences involving violence should be dealt with like any other offences of violence against the person, for which there is already adequate provision."

Legal protection against sex-

ual exploitation from 16 to 18 years of age it suggests, "because of the vulnerability of young people to sexual pressures and coercion."

People in positions of authority over young people (such as parents, guardians, teachers, employers, or youth workers), or who are seven or more years older than the young persons concerned, would be liable to prosecution.

Offences of public indecency should be dealt with in a uniform manner regardless of the gender of the people involved.

The working party suggests that adult sex parties in private houses or private clubs should not be a concern of the criminal law unless carried out in a place which could cause offence to the public.

It notes that many sex offenders are non-violent, and respond to supervision and treatment. It warns, however, about the danger of being too optimistic about therapy. Every effort should be made to explain the nature and prospect of treatment to offenders.

Almost half of all sex offenders are under 30, and once convicted the great majority never appear before a court again.

Of the 475,000 people found guilty of serious offences in 1982, some 6,600 were convicted of sex crimes. One third were convicted of indecent assault on females and one fifth for indecency between males. There were 400 people convicted of rape, 100 for incest, and 22 for buggery.

Unlawful Sex, report of a Howard League working party, published by Watlow, £9.95.



Deborah Lester-George, a model, at an auction of theatrical ephemera in Shaftesbury yesterday with a rubber skeleton which fetched £35. Picture by Frank Martin

Pupils get YTS pay plea

By Andrew Mearns, Education Staff

All 16- to 18-year-olds staying on at school or college should be allowed £1,000 a year, a Liberal inquiry report proposes today.

The scheme, to provide 700,000 young people with a term-time educational allowance, would cost £735 million a year. But that would be cut by nearly £280 million by savings on child benefit and discretionary maintenance grants.

A discussion document on student financial support proposes that 16- to 18-year-olds in full-time education should receive allowances at the rate fixed for YTS trainees, now £26.25 for each working week. It would be paid to each pupil or student rather than to their parents.

The report says that there should be no tuition fees for students over 18 and that support should be based solely on a student's needs. They would receive the same basic educational allowance, plus payments to meet housing, travel and course costs. It estimates that the net expenditure would be £209 million a year.

Mr Clement Freud, Liberal education spokesman, said the proposals could end "the unfairness and waste" caused through young people being unable to meet the cost of further education.

Sixteen Years and Then... Student Financial Support. Available from L. Whitehall Place, London, SW1.

Critics blame lack of 'teeth'

By Stephen Cook

Many police officers fear that powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act will be unwelcome restrictions and safeguards.

As police forces round the country start a training programme to prepare for the introduction of the act, some senior officers and police representative bodies are casting serious doubt on the value of the legislation.

The main provisions of the act, due to come into force on January 1, 1986, extend the police power of stop and search countrywide, increase the maximum time for detention without charge, allow for police road checks and extend powers of search for evidence.

Miscellaneous provisions, including the establishment of police-community consultative groups and a more independent police complaints authority, are already in force or will come into effect shortly.

While the measure was being debated in Parliament its main opponents said that it extended police powers too far.

But Mr Tony Judge, a spokesman for the Police Federation, which represents ranks below Superintendent, said the amendments had produced "a bureaucratic nightmare." It was "a tragic, missed opportunity to standardise, and make sense the criminal law."

Sir Philip Knights, the recently retired Chief Constable of the West Midlands, said during a recent lecture that the act was a brave attempt at simple and clearly defined powers.

"But I shudder at the thought of the red herrings which 80 pages of detailed instructions on how to use its



Sir Philip Knights "red herring"

powers make available to the defence."

Mr Judge said: "General police opinion is that the act is not going to be a major benefit in policing on the streets."

"The stop and search power, for example, is now so closely defined that an officer can't even ask somebody to remove his hat—that's hardly a weapon for the police in the fight against crime."

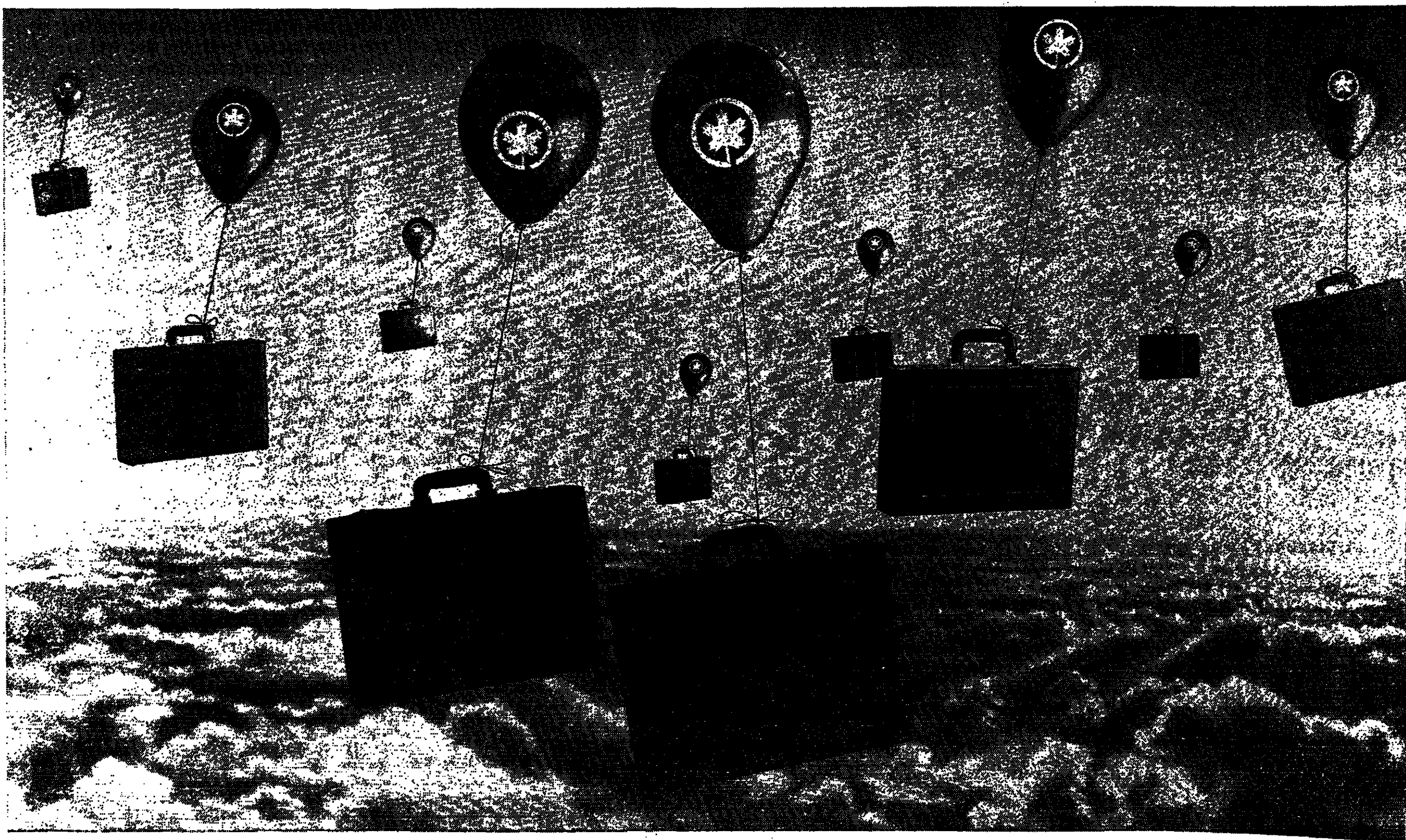
Michael Zander, professor of law at the London School of Economics, has recently visited several police forces to lecture on the act.

"They are now beginning to see the problems where before they saw only the advantages," he said.

A Home Office spokeswoman said that the codes of practice governing implementation of the act had just been finalised.

The intention was to lay them before Parliament within a month, and to stick to January next year as the starting date. Every police officer is expected to have 15 hours training about the act before then.

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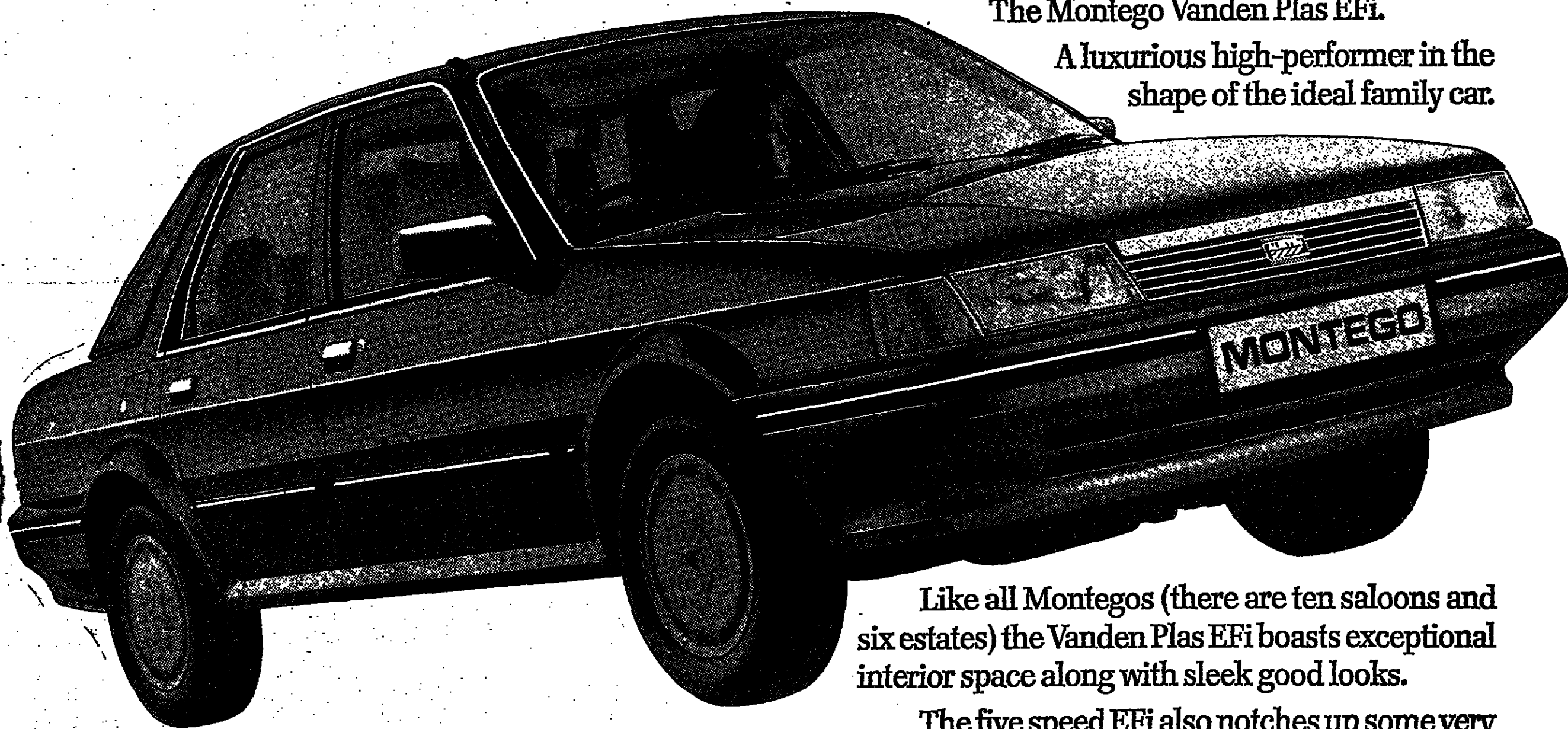
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Reagan 'still wants summit'

From our Correspondent in Washington

President Reagan was still eager to meet the Russian leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, despite public disputes with Moscow about arms reductions and the Major Nicholson affair, the White House said yesterday.

The latest summit speculation came as the State Department disputed Mr Gorbachev's account of the recent Geneva talks on strategic weapons systems. It said that, contrary to reported remarks by Mr Gorbachev in Warsaw, the Russians had offered no fresh strategic reductions in Geneva and, indeed, had not even resubmitted their proposals from the previous round of arms talks.

A State Department spokesman said that the US negotiators had broad authority to negotiate reductions and that the Russians gave their team the same, "then progress could be made" towards substantial bilateral cuts in weapons systems.

In a television interview yesterday, the White House Chief of Staff, Mr Donald Regan,

THE Soviet Communist Party newspaper, Pravda, said yesterday that the British Government had defied elementary logic by expelling Soviet diplomats last week and then saying it still desired better relations with Moscow. The paper said that the further course of bilateral relations depended primarily on London.—Reuter.

It was still President Reagan's hope to meet Mr Gorbachev and that the "two of them will get together in New York," although Washington had yet to receive a formal reply to Mr Reagan's repeated offers of a summit meeting.

Relations between the superpowers have looked strained during the past few days as they have continued to bicker about the shooting of Major Nicholson in East Germany late last month.

President Reagan, in an interview with European correspondents released at the weekend, said that the Russians had "missed an opportunity to achieve some stature in the world by not admitting that this (the Nicholson shooting) was a most regrettable thing and a tragic thing."

Mr Reagan, however, appeared as anxious as ever, in his interview, to meet the new Russian leader. He said he would be "very willing" to meet Mr Gorbachev at the UN in New York.

Congressional resolution 'an insult to German soldiers'

Bitburg row threatens US links with Bonn

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The White House and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany yesterday reaffirmed their determination to go ahead with a ceremony of reconciliation at the Bitburg cemetery despite signs that the gesture will overwhelm the Bonn economic summit and cast a long-term cloud on US-German relations.

In ugly exchanges on American television yesterday, the West German deputy foreign minister, Dr Alois Martes, described a congressional resolution calling for the visit to be cancelled as "insult" to the German soldiers who fought in the Second World War and suggested that Americans believed that Germany was a Nazi country.

But Senator Arlen Specter, went a step further, arguing that Congress might well cut the number of US troops stationed in West Germany unless Bonn spared President Reagan further embarrassment and called off the cemetery visit. Such a move would hit at the heart of the Nato Alliance.

Despite the threat that Bitburg will disrupt President Reagan's 10-day visit to Europe which begins tomorrow, his Chief of Staff, Mr Donald Regan, said that the cemetery trip would go ahead "as it was part of a state visit." It had to be seen as part of an overall visit which would stress economic cooperation in the Western Alliance and include halts in Spain and Portugal.

The determination to press ahead was also confirmed by Dr Martes, who was appearing on the same television programme. He said he had just spoken to Chancellor Kohl.

Mr Regan acknowledged, however, that the Bitburg visit would be brief—14 to 15 minutes at most—compared to more than an hour which the President intends to spend at the Bergen-Belsen death camp.

This stop was hastily arranged after the Bitburg row broke. The increasingly bitter debate about the visit is unlikely to be calmed by a New York Times investigation of the 49 Waffen-SS graves at Bitburg. According to the newspaper report, the SS division interred at Bitburg was responsible for one of the worst massacres of the Second World War. The massacre occurred at the French town of Oradour-sur-

Glane on June 10, 1944, when the 2nd Waffen Panzer division gunned down and burned 642 villagers, in.

The lingering public debate engendered by the Bitburg visit has left Mr Reagan "wounded in the heart" on the eve of his European trip, according to Mr Regan. "It will leave a scar," he told CBS television. "He is wounded internally."

Mr Reagan, who has refused public comment on Bitburg, has been hurt by what has been said about his insensitivity when he is a very sensitive person. But Mr Regan said that it was not a scar "on his ability" to lead the country.

The White House stressed President Reagan's staunch support of Israel and his recent role in airlifting the Ethiopian Jews to Israel as signs of the President's commitment to the Jewish cause.

It is clear, however, that the White House misjudged the political effect that its efforts at reconciliation with Germany would produce. The House of Representatives is expected to pass a similar resolution to that in the Senate which opposed the visit, before the President's departure for Europe.

Senator Specter maintained yesterday that there was ample reason for Mr Reagan to cancel the visit—not least of which the public doubts which have been expressed by the mayor of Bitburg.

There was no spirit of political reconciliation in the remarks yesterday of Dr Martes whose constituency includes the cemetery at the centre of the furore. He said that the uproar in the US "was upsetting the German people" because of its "tendency to portray the impression that the German people were a Nazi people." He considered the congressional reaction "an insult to all former German soldiers of the Second World War."

In an effort to obscure such strong feelings, the White House is expected to urge leaders of the big seven industrial countries to produce a political statement on VE Day, emphasising the spirit of economic and political cooperation since the Second World War.

Mr Reagan will attend the summit in a weakened position unless Congress acts this week to pass the budget agreement between the White House and Senate Republicans.



Paying homage: The French President, Mr François Mitterrand, enters the Struthof concentration camp

Old boys pay the castle a return visit

W. L. Webb reports on an anniversary journey to Colditz

IT IS not every day you hear shouts of Sieg Heil! and alternate choruses of Lili Marlene and Walzing Matilda echoing from the Gaststätte Waldschloss, in a small town in East Germany.

This particular town, however, is called Colditz, the wartime site of the "post-graduate" camp for allied officers who had escaped from other Nazi prisoner-of-war camps—the "bad boys off" as the Germans called it.

At the weekend, as part of their celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, East Germany welcomed back to the old school 25 Colditz old boys, many of whom, in their 60s and 70s, proved to be almost as much of a handful as they were to Hauptmann Püpeke

and Lieutenant Eggers in their salad days.

The mayor and Herr Schreiber, the regional secretary of the coordinating organisation here, known as the National Front, looked even more bemused than their counterparts in the town of Torgau when the Americans returned to the Elbe a few days ago.

From below, Colditz looks like nothing so much as Anthony Hope's Zenda, or even, on the cold grey day of the visit, like the little town of Kafka's Castle.

Now it is partly a psychiatric hospital, and otherwise one of Europe's most daunting old people's homes.

The "old boys" were driven from the new Japanese-built hotel in Leipzig, through the Soviet garrison town of Grimma, and then suddenly they were back, the far from

staid merchant bankers, grand landowners, whisky salesmen, and retired linen merchants, remembering the station where they had arrived in two's and three's to be marched up to the castle by guards with rifles ready at the duck-shooting position.

Among the visitors was the Emsworthian figure of Lord Newborough—alias Micky Wynn, taken in the St Nazaire raid, the bemused ex-marine David Hunter, a very bad boy indeed, though not so naughty as the camp's most creative and noisy diversionist, Peter Tunstall, now an actor working in South Africa, who held the record of 415 days' solitary confinement.

They were disappointed that they could not get into their former quarters, now occupied by the sick and aged. Reluctantly, they went on to

speeches in the Festsaal, where the famous Ballet Noddy had its premier during which Airey Neave made his escape.

The real hero of the day, the one person in Colditz everyone wanted to greet and shake hands with, was the tiny, 32-year-old Willy Pöhlert, the camp electrician they used to see almost every day, whose tools they pinched remorselessly, and who was once brilliantly impersonated in an escape attempt by an equally short French cavalryman.

When Colditz was relieved, the British tried unsuccessfully to take their respected galler, Captain Püpeke, back to England with them. There was a moment on Saturday when it looked almost as if a respected 82-year-old citizen of Colditz was going to be kidnapped.

Fire hospital chief detained by police

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

The director of St Emilian psychiatric hospital, Mr Omar de la Azar, and another man unofficially described as the administrator, were in police custody yesterday, as investigations continued into the fire at the hospital in which at least 78 people died. Police gave no indication whether charges would be filed.

News that the two men were being held came after allegations about the design of the building, and the way the hospital was run.

The death toll from the fire may move into three figures, according to staff looking after other hospitals. Firemen who fought the blaze on Saturday say they took 61 blistered and blackened bodies out of the building, but later police estimates put the dead at 78 and the injured at 247.

Hospital records are rumoured to have been destroyed, but sources say that 413 patients were inside the six-storey building when it caught fire on Friday night. Many of the patients were old

as well as infirm, and a doctor suggested over the weekend that some of those now in hospital with serious burns would not survive.

Many who escaped the flames were choked by toxic fumes from plastic foams used to pad the walls of some wards, and some hurt themselves trying to break down locked doors or leaping out of the windows.

Witnesses at the scene, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, said that not all the victims were patients. One nurse reportedly killed herself by jumping from the fifth floor, although she tried to use a mattress as cushion for fall.

No official explanation has yet been given as to how the fire started, probably on the third or the fourth floor, or why it spread so rapidly in a building which went into service less than five years ago.

The disaster is the worst ever at a mental hospital in Argentina, and the mounting death-toll lends weight to the public's long-running complaint about the standard of health care.

Chilean Socialists held

From Malcolm Coad in Santiago

More than 280 people were still being held yesterday after police raided a concert held by opposition groups to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of the foundation of Chile's banned Socialist party.

The raid took place on Friday night, but yesterday lawyers had still been able to see the detainees, many of whom spent the night of their arrest in an open yard.

The concert was an attempt by one of the Socialist party's three factions to get round President Pinochet's ban on political meetings.

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The concert was an attempt by one of the Socialist party's three factions to get round President Pinochet's ban on political meetings.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ortega seeks aid in Russia

PRESIDENT Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua arrived in Moscow yesterday on the first leg of an East European tour to seek economic aid. Tass said the Soviet Politburo member and Deputy Prime Minister Mr Gaidar, met Mr Ortega and other Nicaraguan officials at the airport. Mr Ortega said before leaving Managua for an eight-country tour that he was seeking aid "for the life of the Nicaraguan people", rather than military support from Communist allies.—Reuter.

Pole dismissed

A SENIOR Solidarity activist who discussed human rights with the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, this month has been dismissed from the Polish Academy of Sciences, opposition sources said yesterday. Professor Bronislaw Geremek, aged 63, an internationally-reputed historian and medievalist who had worked at the academy for 30 years, was informed of his dismissal on Friday.—Reuter.

Soviet amnesty

The Soviet Government has announced an amnesty for certain gaoled citizens as the fortieth anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany approaches. The amnesty excludes people convicted of more than a dozen offences under the criminal code of the Russian Republic on which the other 14 Soviet republics base their laws. The offences include rape, violating public order, running whorehouses, and all types of political crime.—Reuter.

Budapest pub

AN English-style "pub" complete with dartboard and piano will open in Budapest the next few days under Hungary's economic reforms, which encourage private enterprise. Office workers and other potential customers thronged the pub, called the Pigeon, during a trial opening. Draught and bottled West German lager, brewed under licence at a Hungarian brewery, will be served.—Reuter.

\$66m deal

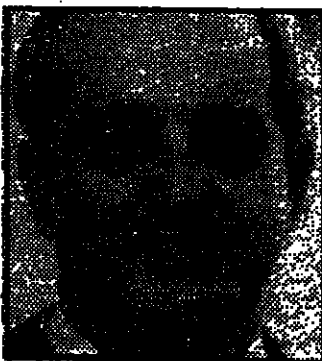
BANGLADESH and the Soviet Union signed a new annual barter trade protocol yesterday with a projected total turnover of goods worth \$66.4 million, the Commerce Ministry said in Dhaka. The Ministry said the size of the new protocol, effective from July this year, will be \$10.4 million more than the current one, due to expire at the end of June.—AP.

Malta truce

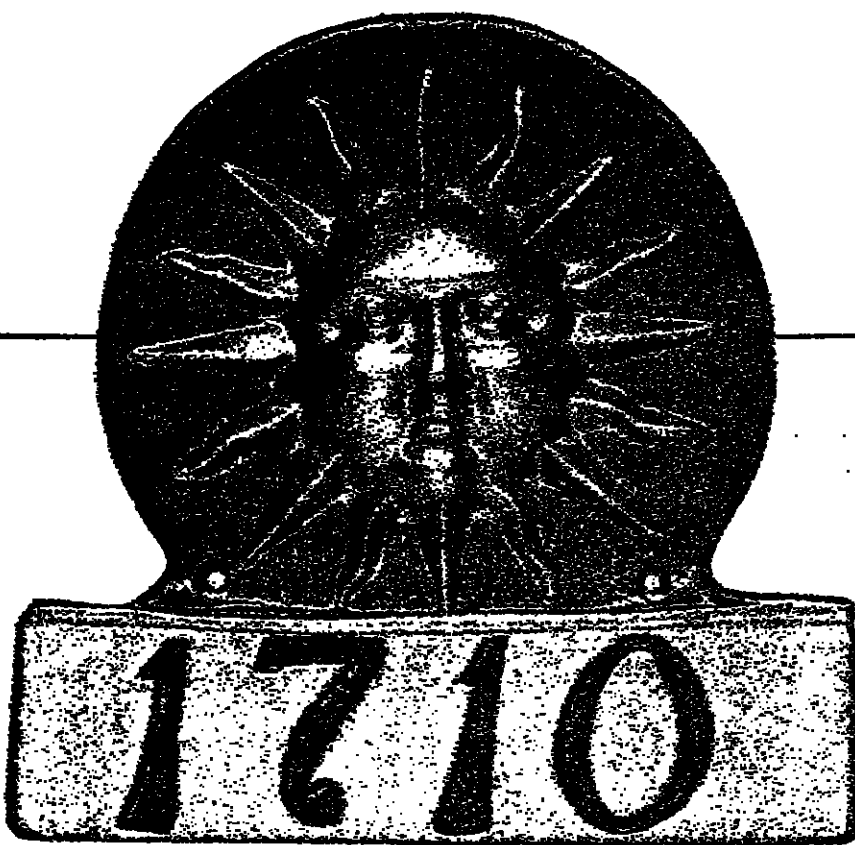
VATICAN officials and Maltese leaders have settled a disagreement about tuition at Roman Catholic schools, the Holy See announced yesterday. Secondary schooling is to be made free for certain groups, in response to government demands.—AP.

Troop cuts call

THE Spanish Foreign Minister, Mr Fernando Moran, was quoted at the weekend as saying that the Government would seek early talks to reduce the US military presence in Spain. The state news agency, EFE, quoted Mr Moran as saying: "Before the referendum on Nato, the Government will negotiate with the US on the reduction of its forces in Spain."—Reuter.



● Fernando Moran



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IN BRIEF

Ortega
seeks aid
in Russia

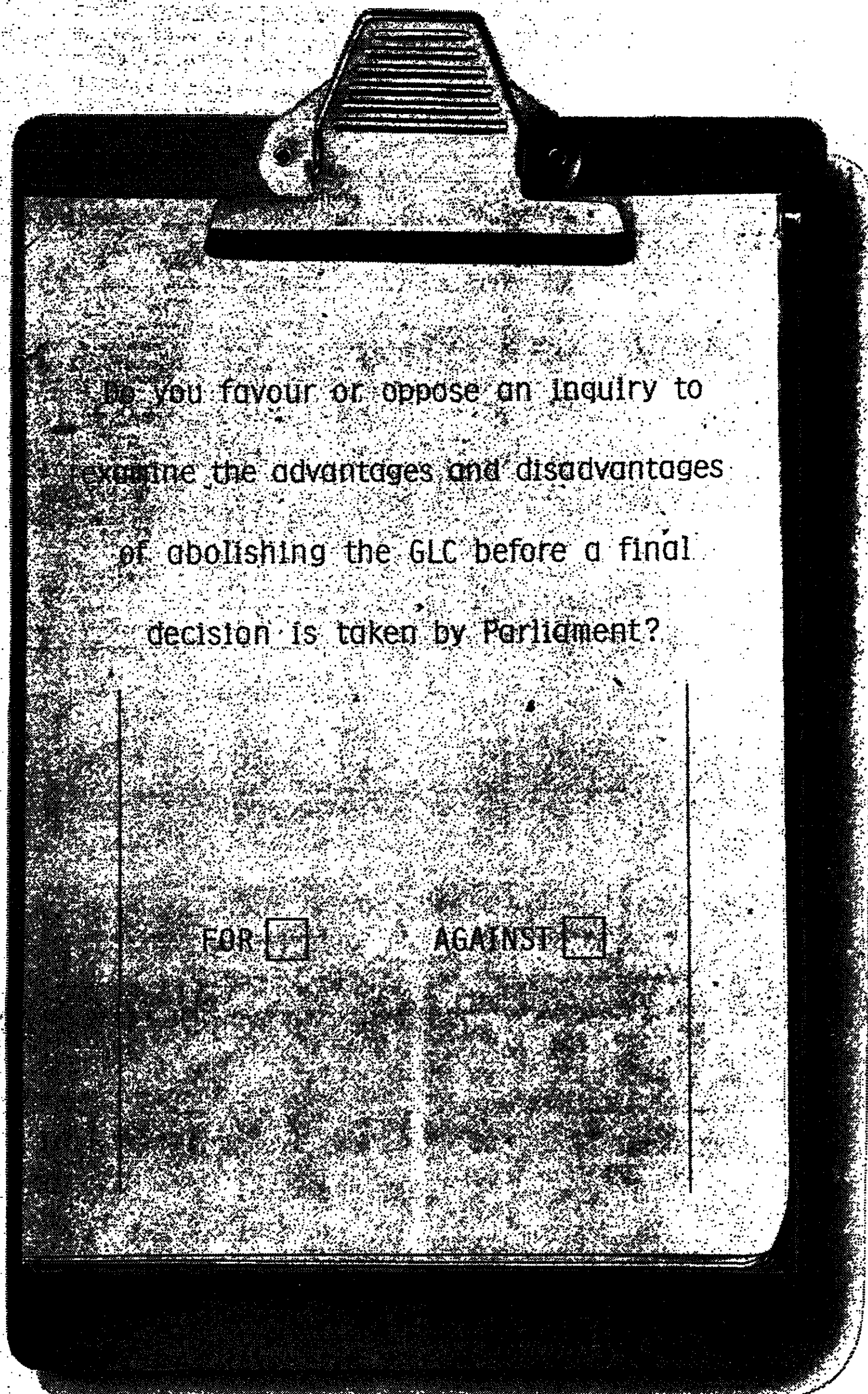
Pale dismissed

Soviet amnesty

Budapest pa

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Algeria 1985



Survey into inquiry on GLC Abolition. Harris Research Centre. April 1985. Commons Committee. Hansard 12th December 1984. The Government have refused every request for an inquiry in any shape or form.

77% OF LONDONERS TICKED THE BOX ON THE LEFT.

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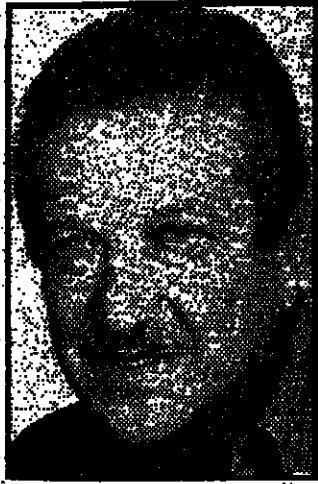
*GLC ALL PARTY COMMITTEE DECISION.



Sign of the times: Heavily-armed Druze militiamen, atop a Soviet-made tank in Na'amah, celebrate the capture yesterday of Christian villages on the road to Sidon

Israel's Arabs find a champion

The bedouin Arabs in the Negev desert are looking to Ezer Weizman (right) for improved status and living conditions, Ian Black reports from Kuseifa village



EZER WEIZMAN grinned at the crowd of waiting Negev bedouin as he squatted in the low black tent before tucking into the greasy lamb and rice brought ceremoniously on giant metal trays for him and the other guests from Jerusalem. "Welcome, man of peace," said a Hebrew sign tacked to the carpets on the wall.

"I know you have great expectations," the Israeli Minister without Portfolio told the Arab tribesmen, "and that's why I don't want to promise too much in case next time I come here instead of eating lamb you'll be eating me."

Mr Weizman has a blunt and earthy way of charming audiences, and his fans like him so much that he can get away with humour that borders on the uncouth. "It's a bit embarrassing, really," he told one bearded and venerable sheikh from a village near Gaza (without trace of embarrassment). "but I remember bombing an Egyptian tank column down there in June 1948. And now I drink coffee with Hosni Mubarak."

Mr Weizman visited this remote bedouin settlement earlier this month, the day after he returned from his controversial "private" talks in Cairo about the future of Egyptian-Israeli relations and the possibility of holding a summit conference between President Mubarak and Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister.

In their different ways both events showed that if there is anyone in the national unity government in Jerusalem who can build bridges between the Jewish state and its Arab subjects and neighbours, it is the former fighter pilot and hawkish general turned "dove"

who is committed to peace and co-existence.

Since becoming the first Israeli cabinet minister with special responsibility for the affairs of the country's 17 per cent Arab minority, Mr Weizman has started to streamline relevant government bureaucracy, and has promised to work for the full integration of the Arab population in all areas of national life.

The bedouin who hosted him in Kuseifa for a traditional feast are a small but significant part of his constituency. Unlike the more sophisticated Arabs in cities like Haifa and Nazareth and in the villages of Galilee, the Negev tribesmen are considered loyal to the Jewish State, serving in the police and in a special minority unit in the army, where their prowess as scouts and trackers in border areas is especially valued.

The process of radicalisation that has swept the rest of the Israeli Arab community — Palestinians left behind after the great exodus of 1948 — has left the bedouin largely untouched, although land expropriations, the activities of the "Green Patrols" in protecting state lands, and a general sense of discrimination have left their mark.

"I respect the State of Israel and I am proud to be one of its citizens, but I feel that I am treated with contempt," said Sheikh Ibrahim al-Amur, the leader of one of the bedouin tribes evacuated to Kuseifa from near-by Tel Mahata. Their land was taken to build a military airfield to replace one lost when Sinai was returned to the Egyptians after the peace treaty.

The Bedouin here, who have no electricity, phones, or even a proper sewerage system, believe there is room for comparisons between the conditions they live in and the vast sums paid in compensation to Jewish settlers evacuated from the city of Yamit, south of the

Gaza Strip, when that area was given back to the Egyptians. And Yamit, they point out bitterly, was occupied territory, not part of Israel.

Mr Weizman's central role in the Camp David peace process, his enthusiasm for warming up the "cold" peace with Egypt, have helped his popularity amongst Israeli Arabs, as has his apparently genuine sympathy with some of their dilemmas.

He could understand their attitude towards the Palestinians, outside Israel, he said during last summer's election campaign, because of how he as an Israeli felt about Jews in the Soviet Union. But his new ideas for dealing with the minority are meeting with resistance from Jews used to a more traditional and controlled approach to the country's second class citizens.

One of Mr Weizman's first decisions on taking office last September was to abolish the post of Arab affairs adviser to the Prime Minister and the regional offices representing him. The replacement of this structure with inter-ministerial committees to coordinate problems in the Arab sector is in line with his hope that the affairs of Israeli Arabs will now be dealt with like those of all other citizens.

The move was a clear indication that he really wants to do away with the old methods of patronage and jobs-for-the-boys dispensed by the previous Arab affairs advisers, who always worked closely with the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service.

"I just hope," Mr Weizman said recently, "that the day will come when there will be no need for a minister to have to deal with this matter at all."

Tehran council steps up Islamic penalties

TEHRAN: Five thieves have each had one of their hands chopped off and Iranian courts have ordered two adulterers to be stoned to death under Islamic law.

A member and spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council, Mr Mortaza Moqtadaei, said that 169 people were flogged for "illegitimate" acts such as fornication and one man was sentenced to death for sodomy in a nine-month period to last January.

Iran introduced Islamic law and punishment for some crimes two years ago and is gradually extending the system. The invention of an electric guillotine for chopping off the hands of thieves was announced recently.

Mr Moqtadaei said that 19 murderers were executed after relatives of the victims insisted on gossas — part of Islamic law based on the principle of an eye for an eye.

Relatives, who can commute the death sentence to payment of "blood money," decided against executions in 51 cases. — Reuters.

Shultz to discuss possibility of PLO representation

Egypt sees positive signs in peace tour

From Kathryn Davies in Cairo

The US assistant secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr Richard Murphy, left Cairo for Washington yesterday at the end of a two-week tour of the Middle East which apparently failed to make much progress in reviving the peace process.

However, Egyptian leaders, including President Hosni Mubarak, denied that Mr Murphy's shuttle diplomacy was the failure portrayed by the

PRESIDENT Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria arrived in Damascus yesterday for talks with President Assad and other Syrian leaders. He said that Israel should withdraw from all occupied territories and that a Palestinian state be set up. — Reuters.

Israelis at the weekend. An Israeli spokesman had reported Mr Murphy as saying that Syria remained implacably opposed to negotiations with Israel in the occupied territories.

President Mubarak said that a permanent settlement of the Palestinian issues was "a complicated business," while Egypt's Foreign Minister, Dr Esmat Abdel Meguid, cautioned against expecting "anything spectacular or quick."

Egyptian officials confirmed that the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, was expected in Cairo after his visit to Israel on May 10. Talks will centre on the key issue of possible PLO representation in any joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which would meet the Americans and ultimately talk to Israel.

Mr Shultz said in Washington last week that the United States would never talk to the PLO unless it recognised Israel's right to exist within secure borders. PLO spokesmen, including the chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, insist that any joint delegation must include their members.

American and Egyptian officials, in consultation with Jordan, are compiling a list of Palestinians who might be acceptable to all the parties to the talks. These include Palestinians with American passports, as well as community leaders in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip who are not PLO officials.

Members of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, could be included in the list.

President Mubarak has reported that the Egyptian ambassador to Israel will not return to Tel Aviv until the Taba issue is resolved. Israel says it has obtained material from British archives as part of its campaign to retain sovereignty of this tiny strip of beach on the Sinai coast, south of Elilat, but has given no details.

The Egyptians say that the return of Taba is a question of national honour and they want the matter referred to independent arbitration. At the same time, Egyptian newspapers have been told to tone down their anti-Israeli comments and cartoons, which, the Israelis say, amount to anti-semitism and are a violation of the Camp David accords.

Algiers shaken by riots in the Kasbah

From David Bradshaw in Algiers

Riot police, armed with tear gas and water cannon, faced hundreds of demonstrators in Algiers' old quarter, the Kasbah, at the weekend.

The demonstrators were protesting against poor living conditions in the Kasbah, which is overcrowded and decaying. Prolonged water shortages are frequent.

Such demonstrations are rare in Algeria which has so far managed to avoid the social unrest which has affected its neighbours Morocco and Tunisia, early last year. Agitation in the Kasbah began when a neglected building collapsed, reportedly killing two people.

On Friday night several hundred people marched out of the Kasbah into the central city to converge on the headquarters of the ruling FLN Party. Riot police pushed the crowd back to the Kasbah, but were unable to manoeuvre in its narrow streets and alleys, where disturbances continued late into the night.

Fires were lit and considerable damage done to buildings and parked cars. Scores of people were injured, but no deaths have been reported.

Calm returned to the quar-

ter on Saturday, but riot police have been deployed in large numbers each evening to deter further disturbances.

The unrest is believed to be the most serious since the French departure 23 years ago. One of the Government's fears was that its opponents, such as Islamic fundamentalists, might take advantage of the unrest to further their own ends. More than 100 fundamentalists are on trial in the town of Medea.

The local press said that the disturbances had been provoked and manipulated by "agitators," whose real aims had nothing to do with the problem of housing.

Kasbah dwellers still harbour a sense of anger and frustration about the Government's slowness to improve living conditions and rebhouse the worst-affected families. The Government has already emptied part of the Kasbah and resettled its inhabitants, but their places have been taken by newcomers from the countryside.

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Sudan border ploy puts squeeze on rebels

From Jonathan Steele in Khartoum

Sudan is prepared to consider stopping relief food and other supplies from crossing the border into Ethiopia in return for a halt in Ethiopian aid to the rebel army fighting inside Sudan.

The offer is believed to be high on the agenda of the Sudanese military mission which was received by the Ethiopian leader, Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, in Addis Ababa at the weekend.

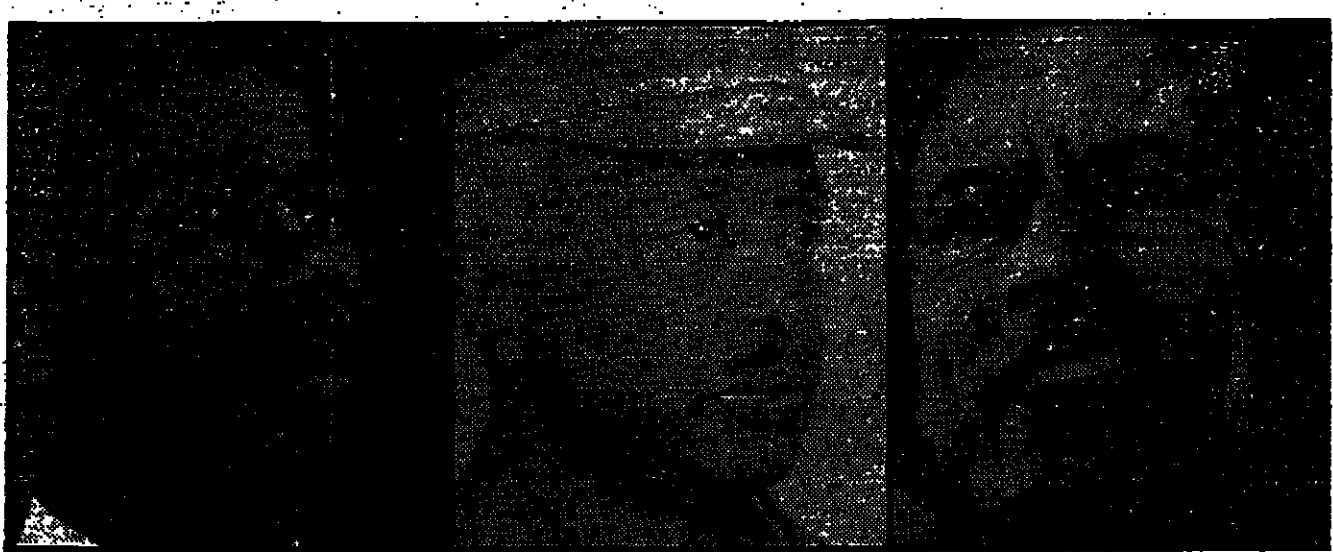
According to senior officials, the new Sudanese military

THE Sudanese Defence Minister, Brigadier Osman Abdullah Mohammed, said yesterday that Libya had promised to stop aiding rebels in southern Sudan. — Reuters.

Government's first priority is to get the rebel leader, Colonel John Garang, to the negotiating table. The colonel leads the Sudanese People's Liberation Army which has crippled economic development in the oil-rich south for two years.

Colonel Garang has been backed financially by Libya and logistically by Ethiopia. The military ruler here, General Abdel Rahman Swareddhab, is now confronting Colonel Garang politically.

A decree of the former president, Ja'afar Numeiri, which divided the south and was unpopular, has been cancelled. General Swareddhab has also appointed three anti-Garang ministers to the Cabinet. The aim is to try to remove the grievances on



Diplomatic moves: Colonel Mengistu (left), General Swareddhab (centre) and Colonel Gafaty

which Colonel Garang's revolt is based while signalling that the rebel leader cannot expect to see his sympathisers in the Cabinet unless the war ends.

On the diplomatic front, the Sudanese leader hopes to undercut Colonel Garang by persuading his foreign backers to reduce their support. Sudan reopened diplomatic relations last week with Libya, and as a goodwill gesture asked the National Salvation Front, a group opposed to Colonel

Muhmmar Gafaty, to leave Sudan. This was a relatively easy step since the bad relations between the two countries were largely based on personal animosity between

Colonel Gafaty and Mr Ethiopian support for Colonel

Sudanese-Ethiopian relations are more complex, as they are tied up with the war against the Government being waged in Eritrea and Tigre. The Eritreans last week sent a Note to the new Sudanese Government calling for a halt to the cross-border supply operation from Sudan.

Government officials here say that it would be simple to close the offices of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front and the Tigre People's Liberation Front in Khartoum. They are also willing to consider closing the cross-border operations in return for a withdrawal of

starving civilians, they say. But cross-border feeding has become deeply embroiled in the intense propaganda war which surrounds the relief effort in Ethiopia. The US which is the main source of money for Eritrean and Tigre relief, has highlighted the issue as a way of arguing that the Government in Ethiopia is not in control of parts of its own country. Cross-border operations clearly violate the sovereignty of independent countries.

If the Sudanese Government were to stop them, it would be a blow to the EPLF and TPLF, and a diplomatic setback for Washington.

Company denies using gas to flush out blacks

Sacked S. African gold miners refuse to leave lodgings

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

Union officials said yesterday that miners had locked themselves into hostels at the world's largest gold mine, where 13,000 black workers were sacked at the weekend, and were refusing to leave.

But the owners of the huge Vaal Reefs gold mine complex, 95 miles south of Johannesburg, denied charges by the officials that teargas had been used to flush out the miners.

The miners were dismissed after calling what the Anglo-American Corporation described as an "illegal strike" on Friday and Saturday.

The men refused to go underground, an Anglo-American spokesman said. The refusal and the subsequent dismissal came after several weeks of "work stoppages, incitement and intimidation," according to a company statement.

The spokesman strongly denied unconfirmed reports that police used teargas and rubber bullets to drive the dismissed miners into their hostels and then sealed off the exits. He also rejected a report that a miner had suffocated to death after teargas had been fired.

"There are no police on the mine and no tear smoke or rubber bullets have been fired," he said. "Mine security personnel are however, keeping an eye on the situation. No miner has been prevented from leaving the hostels, except perhaps by intimidators."

The sacked miners account for only slightly more than a quarter of the total number of

SOUTH Africa's ruling National Party faces a test of white opinion on Wednesday in by-elections in the Orange Free State and riot-torn Cape province. Political analysts expect a strong showing from the extreme rightwing Conservative party, which is mustering support from whites who oppose what they see as the recent erosion of apartheid policies by the government. — Reuters.

The NUM has declared a dispute with Vaal Reefs management and requested the appointment of a conciliation board, according to local labour law. The Minister of Manpower has 30 days in which to appoint a conciliation board to try to settle the dispute. If he fails to do so, the union can embark on a legal strike.

The miners' dismissal follows the sacking of 2,000 miners at Hartbeestfontein mine on Friday. Another 2,000 black miners at Hartbeestfontein were dismissed at the weekend.

A miner died at Hartbeestfontein after impaling himself as he jumped over a fence when violence broke out on Friday.

The dismissal of the 13,000 Vaal Reefs miners, which received scant coverage in the local press yesterday, comes at a time of continuing unrest in black townships.

Australia N-party walkout

From Richard Yallop in Melbourne

The future of Australia's fledgling Nuclear Disarmament party was thrown into doubt at the weekend when its three best-known members walked out of the inaugural national conference in protest at the influence exerted within the organisation by the extreme-left Socialist Workers' party.

The NDP made a considerable impression on last December's federal election, drawing away from the Labour Party many members who were disillusioned by the pragmatic line of the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke.

Its three most prominent figures, Ms Jo Valentini, who was elected to the Senate to represent Western Australia, Mr Peter Campbell, a singer, who stands for the seat in New South Wales, and Mrs Jean Meher, the Victorian candidate, quit the national conference in Melbourne at the weekend.

Ms Valentini did not resign from the NDP, said she now wished to be known as the "Senator for nuclear disarmament," without reference to her party. She said she could not properly represent people concerned about nuclear disarmament if she was being dictated to and dominated by members of another political party.

She said that the national secretary of the Socialist Workers' Party, Mr Jim Percy, was "calling the shots" at the conference, and the party had to be cleansed of the SWP's influence. Mr Percy refused to comment.

Her claim that 80 of the 200 NDP members attending the conference walked out with her was denied by party organisers, who said no more than 35 people had left the meeting.

The NDP chairman, Mr Michael Denborough, said about 12 SWP members were active in the party.

He said that Ms Valentini's claims were "McCarthyism of the worst order." SWP members, who had worked hard for the NDP, were being singled out because of their long hair and unusual dress.

Ms Valentini and her supporters walked out after the defeat of her proposal that the party's constitution be ratified by a postal ballot of its 10,000 members, and not at branch level, to avoid "packing" of branches.

Labour Party sources said that the SWP was committed to a revolutionary state, and that its members were known for their fanaticism and their tactics of infiltrating larger political organisations by establishing small cells within them.

Mr Fraser, in Paris for a meeting of former government leaders said Moscow was trying to increase its presence in the Pacific and would soon have a military base in Iceland, the former British colony of Gilbert and Ellice Islands, which gained independence in July, 1979.

Malcolm Fraser, warning for the Pacific

Nigerian rioting kills 100

BAUCHI, Nigeria: A dusk to dawn curfew has been imposed on the northern Nigerian town of Gombe, the scene of religious rioting that has left more than 100 dead.

The Bauchi state government said in a statement that anyone breaking the curfew would be treated as a religious fanatic and shot on sight.

Fighting started on Friday between police and members of the banned Maitatsine Islamic sect and there was more shooting on Saturday.

Yesterday, however, calm returned. One hundred and forty-six suspected members of the sect were arrested, 43 of whom were released. The sect's leader in Gombe, the state government said.

There was no word on the fate of Enkalla Adamu, the sect's leader in Kano.

The flare-up was the latest in a series of bloody riots in Nigeria's mainly Muslim north in the past five years for which members of the Maitatsine sect have been blamed.

Admired six force units put down disturbances in 1980 in the city of Kano in which thousands died. Hundreds more died in rioting two years later in Katsina, and Kaduna. There was another outbreak of religious rioting in Yola last year.

The sect's founder, Mohammed Marwa, a Cameroonian preacher also known as Maitatsine, died in the Kano riots.

Marwa's followers, who have in the past armed themselves with machetes, knives and axes, are aggressively opposed to many aspects of modern life and some regard Marwa, and not Mohammed, as the true prophet of Allah.

After Marwa's death, there were reports that copies of the Koran had been found in his house in Kano with Mohammed's name crossed out and Maitatsine inserted.

The sect's beliefs are alien to orthodox Muslims.

The ruling Supreme Military Council is dominated by Muslims from the north but Nigeria, with its large Christian population, is a secular state and the authorities have clamped down hard on the Maitatsine sect. — Reuters.

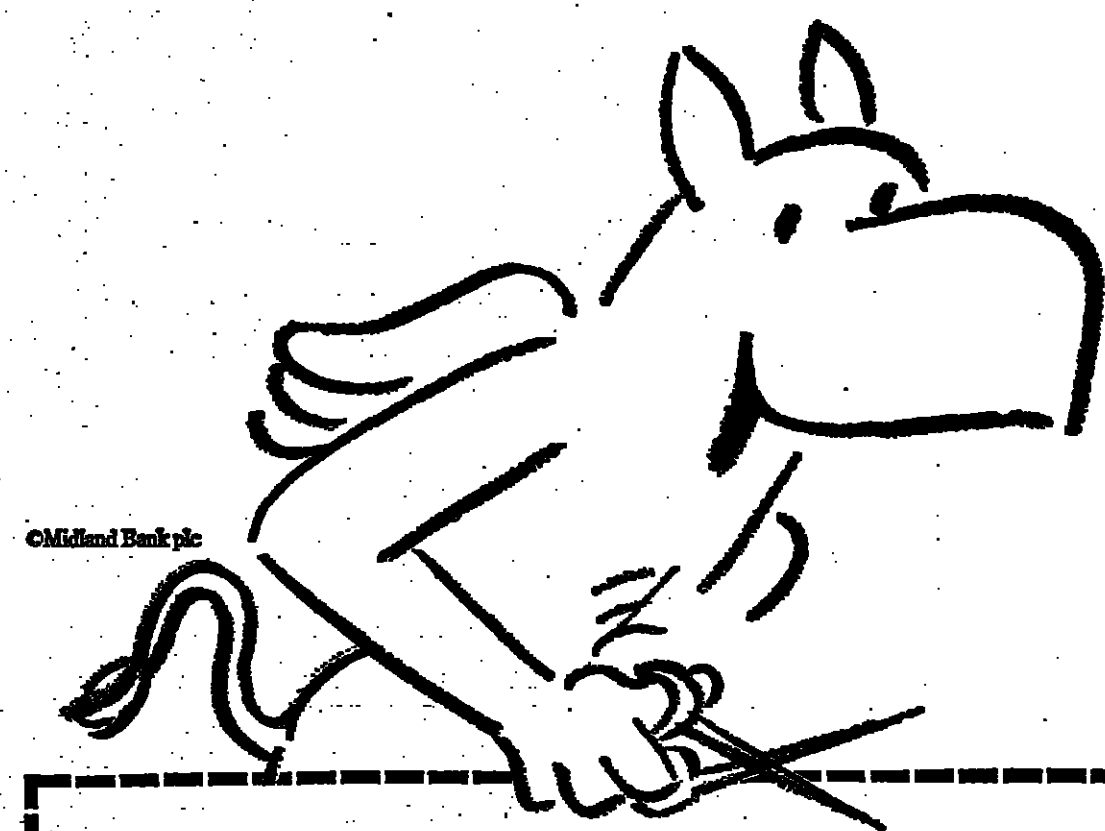
Army 'still in Angola'

LISBON: South African military units still inside southern Angola and stringing out along the border with Namibia are provoking tension 12 days after the South African Government announced the disengagement of its forces, the Angolan News Agency said at the weekend.

Regular South African army units were stationed eight miles inside the Angolan border at the towns of Kameke and Kacacana in the province of Cuito and large contingents of anti-guerrilla fighters, cavalry and police were in position along the border with South African-controlled Namibia, the agency said.

The report said that the positioning of the military units was causing "great tension" in southern Cuito.

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HALLEY'S COMET will make an intense observation by the world's largest telescopes last winter as it moved westwards in the northern part of Orion on its way to perihelion on February 9, next year. Achievements include the first detection of the comet at infrared wavelengths, made by a team of British observers using the UK Infrared Telescope at Mauna Kea in Hawaii last December 20, and the first visual sighting secured by the American observer Stephen O'Neale using a 34-inch telescope at the same volcano-top observatory on January 22. Spectra of the comet's nucleus obtained using the 4.5-metre Multiple Mirror Telescope in Arizona in February show evidence of cyanogen, a common constituent of comets.

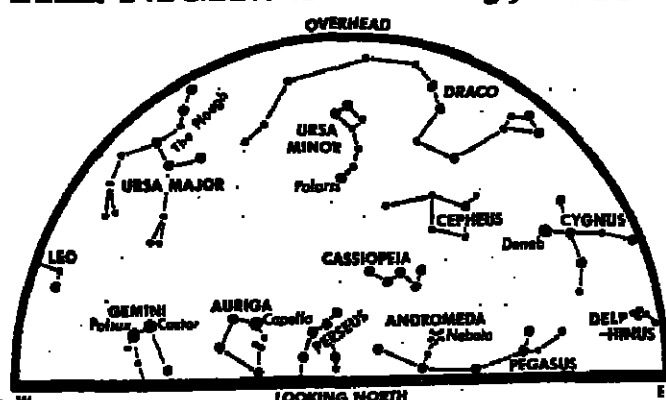
In the last few days Halley's Comet has moved north-eastwards into Taurus where it is a sixteenth or seventeenth magnitude object 6 degrees east of Aldebaran, and some 730 million km from the Earth, on May 1. After conjunction on the far side of the Sun on June 11, it reappears in the summer morning sky and returns briefly to Orion where most amateur astronomers may catch their first telescopic view between August and October.

Parties from Halley's Comet are responsible for the annual Eta-Aquarids meteor shower which lasts from April 24 to May 20, peaking on May 5 when meteors stream from the eastern morning sky. As part of the observing campaign for Halley's Comet, amateur astronomers will pay special attention to the shower this year, even though moonlight will interfere with meteor counts and the shower is best viewed from the southern hemisphere.

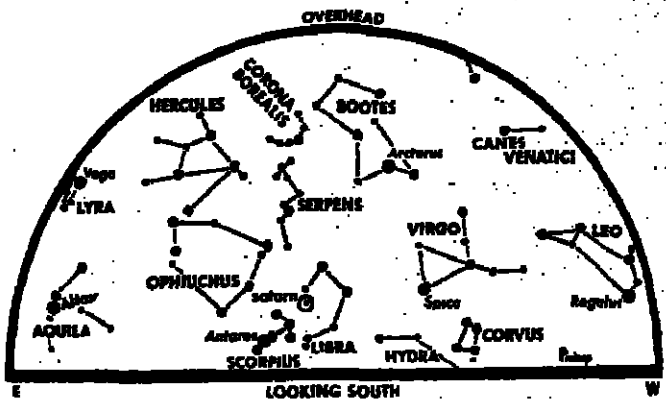
Eclipses

THE total eclipse of the Moon on the evening of May 4, is the first of two to be visible from

THE NIGHT SKY: May, 1985



The maps show Saturn and the brighter stars as they appear at 01.00 BST on May 1, midnight on May 15 and 23.00 on May 31.



The maps show Saturn and the brighter stars as they appear at 01.00 BST on May 1, midnight on May 15 and 23.00 on May 31.

Halley in view by Alan Pickup

Britain this year the other is on October 26. The total phase of the eclipse, when the Moon lies completely within the northern half of the central dark umbra shadow of the Earth, lasts from 20.22 to 21.31 BST, and it is during the first half of this period that the Moon rises and the Sun sets for most areas in Britain. Only for observers east of a line from the Wash to the Isle of Wight does moonrise occur before 20.22. Following totality, the Moon gradually emerges from the umbra until 22.36, and it is free of the outer penumbral shadow by 23.33.

During the eclipse, the Moon lies about 10 degrees to the west (right) of Saturn and just west (right) of the double star Zubenelgenubi in Libra. It also lies uncomfortably close to the horizon in the bright evening twilight as viewed from Edinburgh. It stands only four degrees high in the south-east when totality ends, though it is

another four degrees higher as seen from London.

The Moon's umbral shadow dips to within 400 km of the Siberian forest on May 15, producing a partial solar eclipse visible from the north-western Pacific, Japan and most areas north of 60 degrees north latitude. No eclipse will be seen from Britain.

The solar system

SATURN reaches opposition on May 15 when it lies directly opposite the Sun so that it rises in the east-south-east at sunset, stands about 20 degrees high in the south in the middle of the night, and sets in the west-south-west at sunrise. The planet is 1335 million km away at opposition and shines at magnitude 0.0, making it comparable with the three brightest stars visible at our map times: Arcturus in Bootes; Vega

in Lyra and Capella in Auriga. Saturn can be seen eight degrees above-right of the moon on the evening of May 5. Its slow westwards motion in Libra (see south star map) carries it two degrees south of Gamma Librae (75 light years distant) on May 7, 0.1 degrees north of Zeta Librae (1500 light years) on May 16 and only one arc minute north of the star 34 Librae (420 light years) on May 22.

Mars sinks into the north-western evening twilight this month to end a spell of visibility which has lasted for almost two years. At present, it sets more than two hours after the Sun, but this interval shortens by two minutes each day as it approaches conjunction of the far side of the Sun in July. At magnitude 11.6, the planet moves eastwards in Taurus and passes 6 degrees north of the star Aldebaran, twice as bright as Mars and also orange-red, on May 11. By the time Mars stands

5 degrees below-right of the young Moon on the evening of May 21, it will be difficult to see in the twilight.

Uranus, a magnitude 5.5 binocular object in southern Ophiuchus, rises in the south-east one hour before our map times. Like Neptune, magnitude 7.9 in Sagittarius and rising in the south-east at the map times, it reaches opposition in June. Jupiter is a conspicuous morning object rising in the east-south-east a little more than two hours after our star map times and climbing to stand about 15 degrees above the south-south-eastern horizon at sunrise. It brightens from magnitude 2.3 to 2.5 as it moves eastwards between the stars Theta and Iota Capricorni. Jupiter is 738 million km from the Earth and has an apparent diameter of 40 arc seconds when it lies 6 degrees above-left of the Moon on the morning of May 11. Venus reaches its greatest brilliancy as a morning star on

May 9 when it shines at magnitude -4.5, eight times brighter than Jupiter. It rises some 70 minutes before the Sun at present and stands 10 degrees high in the east at sunrise. By the end of May, Venus is 12 degrees high at sunrise, having risen 90 minutes earlier. Binoculars show the planet to be a brilliant crescent, shrinking in diameter from 45 to 28 arc seconds as its distance grows from 57 million to 91 million km. Mercury attains its greatest angular distance of 27 degrees west of the Sun on May 1, but lies too low in the bright morning twilight to be seen from our latitudes this month.

The Moon occults the second magnitude star Delta Scorpii on the night of May 5-6. As seen from London, the star disappears behind the Moon's north-eastern limb at 00.42 and reappears at the north-western limb at 01.31. From Manchester the occultation lasts from 00.41 to 01.28, while the times for Edinburgh are 00.42 to 01.26.

Diary

All times are BST
May 1 16h Mercury at greatest elongation W. 22°
May 4 21h Full Moon and total lunar eclipse
May 5 Aquarids meteor shower
May 5 16h Saturn 3 deg N of Moon
May 6 01h Occultation of Delta Scorpii
May 7 02h Uranus 3 deg N of Moon
May 8 05h Neptune 5 deg N of Moon
May 9 14h Venus at greatest brilliancy
May 11 06h Jupiter 5 deg N of Moon
May 11 14h Mars 6 deg N of Moon
May 11 19h Moon at last quarter
May 15 19h Saturn at opposition
May 16 00h Venus 2 deg N of Moon
May 16 22h New Moon and partial solar eclipse
May 21 11h Mars 13 deg S of Moon
May 27 14h Moon at first quarter
Jun 1 23h Saturn 3 deg N of Moon

Four hurt as police shoot at mob setting fire to slum huts

Troops keep tight grip on tense cities in Gujarat

New Delhi: Troops patrolled three towns in India's western state of Gujarat yesterday to try to prevent further violent protests against a government policy of reserving jobs and college places for minorities.

Police said the state capital, Ahmedabad, was tense after several but troops and police were maintaining "vigorous" patrols.

The city has been the focal point of 11 days of riots in which at least 55 people have been killed.

Four people were injured yesterday in Surat, 140 miles south of Ahmedabad, when police fired on crowds setting fire to huts in a slum area of the city. Troops went into Surat on Saturday night after street violence erupted earlier in the day despite a curfew clamped on the city.

One woman wounded during the police shooting in Surat died yesterday of her injuries. All India radio reported.

A police spokesman said troops were also called out for the second time this week in Baroda, about 70 miles south-west of Ahmedabad. Dozens of policemen were

injured during battles between stone-throwing crowds in Baroda, he said, and an Indian nurse was killed. In several parts of the city, three people were injured during clashes in a village near the city.

A curfew was also clamped on some parts of Anand, 40 miles south-east of Ahmedabad, after street battles between supporters and opponents of the reservation policy.

At least four policemen were injured when they were hit by flying stones, the spokesman said. Crowds set fire to two cinemas and several shops. He said a indefinite curfew on the old walled city area and two other districts of Ahmedabad was briefly relaxed yesterday to allow people to buy essential supplies.

He said Kadi, Vimsagar and Viramgam and some parts of several other Gujarat towns were under curfew after stone throwing and arson attacks in the past two days.

In Champaner, in the Punjab, a Sikh political leader freed from detention said yesterday that the Indian Government was waging a hate campaign against his sect.—Reuters.

Mayor stresses tie with Kampuchea

From John Gittings in Ho Chi Minh City

A close connection between the economies of Kampuchea and southern Vietnam was stressed yesterday by the mayor of Ho Chi Minh City, Mr Mai Chi Tho.

His remarks reflect the Vietnamese insistence that any political settlement in Kampuchea must not disturb the present relationship with Vietnam. Mr Tho, speaking to foreign journalists who are here for the tenth anniversary celebrations of the fall of Saigon, also said that state socialism could not be achieved at least before the end of the century.

The population of Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), which reached a wartime highpoint of 4.5 million, is now almost up to four million, but there are still 100,000 unemployed.

There was a great potential for the city's industrial production, Mr Tho said, "not only in the southern provinces, but in Laos and Kampuchea." He pointed out that the

Kampuchean capital was only 250 miles away, and that Ho Chi Minh City should develop to satisfy Kampuchea's needs. He thought that industrial growth would follow development of offshore oil exploration.

He admitted that some members of the old administration were still held in "re-education" camps, but advanced the unusual argument that this was only necessary because of the new threat posed by China.

So far, only the main industries have been nationalised. More than half the labour force in smaller industry and commerce had been organised into various forms of co-operatives, but there was still an important private sector of small family interests.

Mr Tho repeated assurances of religious freedom in the south. Earlier yesterday, Mass was celebrated in the city cathedral. The priest explained that five masses are celebrated there in Cantonese and three in Vietnamese — and that his church is kept open by contributions from the faithful.

Exiles keep up protest

PEKING: Chinese demonstrators seeking an end to 17 years of enforced exile in the remote province of Shanxi yesterday continued their protest outside Peking's municipal Communist Party headquarters for the seventh consecutive day.

The disillusioned protesters were reduced to a core of about 70 when they resumed their sit-in on the steps of the bleak, grey building yesterday.

They defiantly unfurled their large red banner demanding permission to return to live in Peking, but their number had dwindled from the several hundred who started the demonstration last Monday.

Chinese security police prevented foreign reporters from talking to the demonstrators.

The exiles vow they will stay on until they win, but while there have been no arrests reported so far, Western diplomats believe the authorities are unlikely to tolerate the city centre sit-in continuing until May 1, when Peking has invited foreign trade unions to Labour day festivities.—Reuters.

7 killed in Sri Lanka

Colombo: Seven soldiers were killed by a landmine while renewed Muslim-Tamil clashes erupted in Sri Lanka's north and eastern provinces yesterday, officials said.

The mine blew up one truck in a convoy, killing some occupants and injuring others at Karavaddi, 12 miles from the northern capital of Jaffna.

About 50 homes were set ablaze when fresh clashes broke out between Muslims and Tamils in the east coast town of Valachchenai.

Government officials said troops had been rushed to the area which was calm after the morning's violence. First reports said that 100 homes had been burned.

Security officials said that separatist guerrillas fighting to set up an independent state for the island's 2.5 million Tamil minority, were responsible for the mine blast.

Guerrillas, who killed one officer in an attack on a police post on Friday, in the predominantly Sinhalese district of Kurunegala in the north-western province, have been accused of sparking the worst Muslim-Tamil riots in the eastern province.—Reuters.

Family finds its refuge in a bottle

LOS ANGELES: An American, Mrs Dorothy Peekham, was on a Christmas cruise to Hawaii in 1979 when she threw a wine bottle overboard containing her address, greetings, and a dollar for return postage.

At the weekend, a former South Vietnamese soldier, Boon Van Nguyen, and his family moved into a home in Los Angeles — the final chapter in the story of the bottle. Mr Nguyen, aged 31, said he picked up the bottle at sea — 9,000 miles from where it had been dropped — while he and 38 other Vietnamese "boat people" were making their way in a flimsy boat from Vietnam to Thailand.

After he settled in a refugee camp in Thailand, he sent a letter to Mrs Peekham and her husband, a Los Angeles lawyer, saying: "We have received a floating mailbox by a bottle... Now we send a message to the boss, and we wish that you will answer us sooner."

Mr Nguyen and the Peekhams exchanged letters and the couple decided to sponsor Mr Nguyen, his wife Joang Kim, their 16-month-old son, Thai, and Nguyen's 17-year-old brother to come to the United States.

The Vietnamese family finally arrived at Los Angeles airport on Saturday.

"It was a sixth sense that made me take the bottle from the water and now I have a good future," Mr Nguyen said.—Reuters.

When villains start working 9 to 5, so will we.

Like most other white collar workers, police officers work at least eight hours a day, five days a week.

HARROW: An old lady hasn't been seen for a few days and the milk is piling up on her doorstep. A Woman Police Constable breaks in and finds her dead on the floor. Foul play? The Inspector and Police Surgeon are called in.

There the similarity ends. In a place like London, accidents, football matches, demonstrations, crime, tourists, and the like keep us busy

twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

And since quite a lot of our work involves dealing with London's anti-social elements, anti-social hours are what we tend to work.

You could find yourself up well before the lark on Early Turn, 6am to 2pm.

Or you could be putting in a hard day's night while most law-abiding folk are comfortably parked in front of the television.

Look on the bright side, though. While everyone else is slaving away at work, you can spend an afternoon in the garden or at the squash club.

So much for routine. There's not much chance of anyone settling into a comfortable routine in the Metropolitan Police.

It's one of the few occupations where you can turn up for work and not have an inkling of what the day holds in store for you. You could be called to the scene of a fatal accident, or an armed robbery.

Or you could spend the afternoon in a community centre helping to sort out old people's problems.

Every day, you'll find yourself in situations that demand something different from you.

By turns, you'll be a tourist guide, marriage guidance counsellor, diplomat, child psychologist, criminologist, self defence expert, first aid specialist, lawyer and speaking clock.

Every one of these jobs requires different individual qualities.

FULHAM: A bomb reported in a shop doorway. Chief Inspector and C13 Anti-Terrorist Branch called out to assess the situation. The Explosives Officer confirms our worst suspicions were unfounded. Better safe than sorry.

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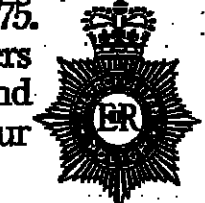
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AGENDA

The new chartists who lack an obvious ingredient

Alfred Sherman

JUST AS the square root of minus one plays an indispensable role in certain mathematical equations in spite of its logical impossibility, a valuable light on our economic situation could be thrown by a temporary suspension of disbelief which allowed us to believe that the conveniences of the Employment Institute and Charter for Jobs are moved by a genuine passion for re-thinking economic theory and policy, with special reference to employment.

If this were so, they could make a valuable contribution. The world over, unemployment is a problem. Even to explain unemployment is not enough, unless the explanation provides the basis of a strategy for dealing with it. Nigel Lawson's explanations may be true, but are they true enough?

Fresh thinking would generate a wave of intellectual excitement comparable to that generated in their day by the IEA and CFS, with commensurate political impact.

But think of the magnitude of the task. Employment and unemployment are not discrete phenomena, but part of the warp and woof of economic life, and social norms including perceptions and attitudes, cf. Keynes on the crucial role of businessmen's "animal spirits". The problem of unemployment

calls for nothing less than a comprehensive economic and social philosophy. But to find answers to everything one must first question everything. The certainties which have comforted our establishment since the second world war, and the assumptions of economic theory, must be called on to justify themselves before the bar of reason.

This is a more arduous intellectual challenge than the one which faced would-be reformers in the 30s. Then Keynes shared a common idiom with other neo-classical economists; he did not have to abrogate, but to outflank, the ideologists. Immediate predecessors could take refuge in various never-never lands where the elixir of permanent growth and full employment had proven itself, according to taste, the Soviet Union and Mao's China; Sweden; the France of the early bolder versions of the industrial planning; Kennedy's America; the European Economic Community which was to be. By now, every one of these utopias has disappeared, and there is no longer any safe haven in sight.

Sir Ian Gilmour may look back on 1951-64 as a golden age, but for Shirley Williams and her colleagues, the years which provided the rationale for her accession to high office, Mr Callaghan and Lord Donoghue would find few of their fellow Chartists willing to agree that a golden age lasted till May 1979, before being brought to an end by monetarism.

Economic theory is in dis-

array. Rather like rival nuclear powers, each school of economic thought is far better equipped to annihilate its opponents' premises than to defend its own. Some economists and sociologists, mostly on the Left, go so far as to bid us reconcile ourselves to permanent unemployment and to use it creatively. Others, who seem to dominate the ideologists' interim manifestoes, have taken refuge in what they call "anti-monetarism", and an employment creation which can trace its pedigree back to the "public workshops" of Louis Brand during the 1948 French Revolution.

But whether or not these are still potent as political slogans, they beg too many questions to carry intellectual conviction.

To sail under the anti-monetarist flag implies the existence of a coherent doctrine called monetarism. But is there? The word was originally coined by Karl Brunner to distinguish between Keynes, who emphasised the demand for money, and Friedman, who emphasised the supply. The term was meant, but it turned out to possess enormous psychological potential, thanks to its overtones of excessive concern for the root of all evil.

Trumpeted by a massed band of politicians, political correspondents and clergy, this one-word slogan effectively distracted attention from conceptual flaws in the Keynesian approach, emotively blackmailed into silence potential critics of neo-Keynesian legions. By doing so, it played a

part in prolonging New Keynesianism's reign well beyond the natural term predicted by experience of its shortcomings.

But the spell has finally been broken, less by argument than by experience. Whatever Lord Wilson and Mr Callaghan may find convenient to say or imply now, both were obliged to explain in office that spending on way out of stagnation would not work. The spell will not be revived now by circulating lists of signatories, distinguished more for offices held than for actual achievements, together with entertainers and preachers, as in Popular Front days, or even by pasting the names on a wheel and spinning it.

What is monetarism? My definition would be any school of economic thought and policy which ascribes primacy to money. By this definition the neo-Keynesians are monetarists: par excellence. It was precisely Keynes's General Theory which took money from the margin of economic theory, where his fellow-economists had relegated it into the centre.

True, the master himself put demand deficiency fifth in his list of possible causes for unemployment, and hedged round even that with caveats. It was his disciples who discarded the caveats together with the four prior causes, and became intoxicated with demand management, thus turning, touch on the tiller — remember? Monetary manipulation to create demand, eked out if necessary by suppression of inflationary symptoms through price-controls, be-

came their unquestioned panacea.

Those who rejected this panacea had little in common, except a presumption in favour of cause and effect, certainly not enough to present them as a coherent and rival school, not even a rival-monetarist school. Some are enthusiasts for the market, others more sceptical — can one have perfect markets in an imperfect world? Some share the Keynesian claim for economics as a prescriptive and prescriptive science, while laying claim to the only correct formula: others reject the claim as presumptuous ab initio.

Anti-Keynesians may ascribe various degrees of importance to having the right monetary policy. Some hold — as I do — that so long as resource allocation is at fault, no right monetary policy is possible, only a search for lesser evils. It was on this last thesis that Sir Keith Joseph rested much of his case for "Monetarism is Not Enough", which turns out to have been prophetic.

He warned that whenever the state pre-empted and wasted an excessive share of resources, while generating additional incomes in the course of doing so... i.e. by unrequited wages and other expenditures in loss-making industries — and then tried to offset the inflationary effects by a monetary squeeze, the private sector moved into recession.

An important element in Sir Keith's argument was that the complex of demand and supply, inflation and recession, could not be understood pri-

marily in monetary terms since money was only a link in the economic chain of cause and effect, but had to be understood in terms of resource allocation, that monetary economics should be subordinate to resource-economics.

Ten years have passed since Sir Keith warned against reviving old fallacies in new guise, referring to the danger that the neo-Keynesian squeeze, the "stop" in "go-stop" — which is misleadingly dubbed "stop-go" — would be revived, but this time dressed up in Friedmanite rhetoric, and dubbed "monetarism" by politicians and others who had happily practiced it as "Keynesian."

But because the effects of the monetary squeeze are visible, whereas the squeeze created by increased public expenditure is invisible, and provides custom for the dependent segment, large sections of the private sector, both employers and unions, would call for the lethal cure of expansion through public spending, "pump-priming," "shot in the arm" etc. cf. industrial and financial support for the Charter.

These pressures — he concluded — would face any government which had been unable to cut public spending with the choice between permanent recession, with its political overtones, and galloping inflation. In the event, Sir Keith's argument was fulfilled during Mr Callaghan's premiership, hence the doubling of unemployment side by side with substantial inflationary pressures.

I call this new stage in the Keynesian cycle inflationary recession, because inflation creates recession while the attempt to mitigate it generates inflation, so that both mutually intensify each other. But our politicians, economists and civil servants have yet to recognise it for what it is, because it does not fit into the economic categories they learned in the heavy Keynesian years, which brought them advancement. Their mentors had not been to blame since inflationary recession did not then exist; it is a recent side-effect of neo-Keynesianism. New economic forms emerge and need new theories to present them; yesterday's laws no longer hold good; yet the world is run by men who grew up and made their careers yesterday.

So who will now introduce the missing dimension, awareness of inflationary recession and the need for resource-oriented economic thought and policy, into our economic thinking?

One latter-day chartist could seize this golden opportunity to launch themselves with an original idea which starts us all in the face, and which once discovered would impress itself, rather than yesterday's rejects.

But so long as they hanker after the alchemy of the sixties, the chartists are as effectively inhibited from recognising the reality they helped create, as phlogiston-theorists were from understanding the process of combustion.

Sir Alfred Sherman is the co-founder of the Centre for Policy Studies.

OUT OF COURT

Geoffrey Bindman

A nice little earner

WE KNOW what miners and teachers are paid; we know what NHS doctors earn. We do not know what barristers are paid, because they are paid separately for each case and their earnings are not published.

But sometimes, as in D.C.'s libel case against the BBC last week, figures leak out of what is well known within the legal profession — that incomes above £100,000 a year are common for QC's specialising in civil litigation, and some receive several times this figure.

Is it just a private matter between the barrister, his conscience, and his tax inspector? In a free market, it might be said, the consumer can shop around; competition ensures that any barrister who tries to overcharge will be undercut by another willing to do the job more cheaply.

For two reasons the public has an interest in seeing that barristers' fees are subject to effective outside scrutiny. First, the consumer is protected by the king of competition that keeps costs down. True, the number of barristers, and especially of QC's, is limited. They may compete avidly for briefs, but fees are pushed up no down in what is a cynical assertion of monopoly power.

Second, a high proportion of the Bar's income comes out of public funds; not just from legal aid income, but also from the many publicly-funded bodies. Like the BBC in last week's case, who get involved in litigation.

The public interest is, in theory, recognised. There is an elaborate system of "taxation" by which the courts purport to supervise the costs of civil litigation. For solicitors it is often rigorous, demanding the preparation of immensely detailed bills which are examined line by line by the Taxing Masters of the High Court.

But for barristers the standards are so loose as to provide no real check at all. In Notes for Guidance on the Taxation of Civil Costs, issued by Lord Hailsham in July 1984, it is made clear that the solicitor must agree the fee before it can be approved. This places upon the solicitors the onus to satisfy themselves as to the reasonableness of counsel's fees before inserting them in their bill. But how does the solicitor judge what is reasonable?

No attempt has been made by the courts to establish what a barrister ought to earn by the hour, or by the day, or by the week. The fee needs to be made for his expenses. The truth is that the "market rate" is fixed by the barrister's clerk — once described by the Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Megarry, as "a complicated cross between a theatrical agent, a business manager, an accountant, and a trainer."

Fees are the clerk's business, and the barrister's counsel gratefully and trustingly leaves it to him.

There is little room for real negotiation of fees between solicitor and clerk before the case, when the fee is set. There are no proper criteria, and the clerk is hardly qualified to judge the amount of work or skill needed. Moreover, he has no direct financial interest in the size of the fee.

The Royal Commission on legal services found that 94 per cent of senior clerk's fees paid on commission ranged from 5 per cent to 10 per cent of fees collected, and the remainder by a combination of salary and commission.

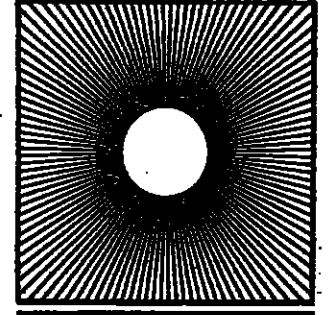
Competition is removed by undisguised collusion between the clerks of opposing counsel before a fee is even proposed. Furthermore, the rule requiring agreement of fees in advance often has the consequence of providing a lucrative windfall for barristers when a case is withdrawn or settled before the trial actually takes place. The fee is obviously agreed on the assumption that it will be fought, but refunds are rarely offered if it is not.

The contrast between the uncontrolled exercise of monopoly power in the "privately" paid area of civil litigation and the fees paid to solicitors and barristers in legal aid cases is glaring. There, payment is generally fixed after the event according to hourly rates based on a genuine effort to relate payment to time, effort, and skill.

A system of payment throughout the legal profession based on similar criteria is needed, enforced by a thoroughly overhauled supervisory machinery.

Geoffrey Bindman is a solicitor.

What a bishop should not say



FACE TO FAITH

John Gummer

I HAVE NO DOUBT at all of the right and the duty of the Church to speak out on political matters. Indeed, people are wholly mistaken and unable to understand what the Church is about if they believe the Church should say nothing about politics at all. If we believe that God created the world and that He was incarnate — God made man — then we are denying the Creator and the Incarnation if the Church is not concerned with every aspect of life and human endeavour. Politics — particularly in the Western tradition — encompasses a good deal of life.

Now for those of us who come from the Catholic tradition, the Church speaks primarily through the bishops. As representatives of the Church, bishops have a duty as well as a right to speak out, but their authority is episcopal and not technical. That's why I once said that they can no more pontificate on economics than the Pope could correct Galileo's physics. Yet the Church has a vital pastoral role in guiding the politician in the exercise of his profession. As a practising Christian and a politician, I am confronted with the constant problem of facing the demands of the Gospel in the exercise of my daily work. It is for the Church to remind me of those demands and through the sacraments dispense the grace to live up to them. But it cannot give me the answers to political questions any more than it can tell the carpenter what style of chair will sell best or prove most comfortable.

The Government has recently put forward plans for a new Bill on buses. As a representative of a rural constituency I am an enthusiast for it. I believe that deregulation will provide my constituents with more buses and cheaper fares.

There are other politicians who believe the opposite. This is manifestly not a matter upon which the Church can pronounce. It must remind me of my duty to my neighbour, to the taxpayer, to the ratepayer and taxpayer but it is wholly inappropriate for the Bishop of Durham to claim that one solution to the problems of transport is more Christian than another.

And those are the only terms in which the Church can speak.

For the Church to enter into the political arena it must be sure it is speaking for Christ and not merely promoting a particular point of view — right or left.

There are therefore four characteristics which ought to mark the Church's state-

ments. The first is Christian courtesy. When churchmen have controversial things to say they must not say them in a way which wounds. They must not insult the beliefs of the faithful, nor demean themselves by personal attack. The commonest mistake by a bishop describing the chairman of the National Coal Board as an "imported, elderly American" is a good example of discourtesy.

The second characteristic is the commitment to truth. If the church speaks it must be in a way which is incontrovertible as far as truth is concerned, for if it is not, then the message of the Church will be lost amid the argument.

The third element is a fearless and determined compassion. The Church rightly called for compassion as a central theme in the handling of the recent miners' strike. Compassion is not sentimentality. The Church must have compassion for all — be they the families of striking miners or working miners. However, compassion does not compromise with the truth. It may be that to be compassionate one has to be prepared to point clearly to that which is wrong as well as to reconcile.

Christian compassion is not a short-lived affair. It is about actually getting to the root of things and trying to find an answer. Reality in the longer-term may be more important than the costs of the short-term. Reconciliation is only effective if you have first of all ascertained clearly what is the nature of the disagreement or the argument, for if it is not, you hope to be a reconciler.

Lastly, there is Christian certainty. Bishops and church leaders must avoid making statements which are merely matters of opinion, and that the recently retired Bishop of Peterborough made political statements which appeared to support the Conservative Government detached from the universality of his statements on matters theological. I happen to agree with his views on politics but I would prefer his not to diminish the effect of his preaching the Gospel.

In the same way, Dr Greig's partisan political statements lessen his impact as a proponent of theological ideas. Those who party political views grab the headlines often find it much more difficult to reach the heart of the people on matters of faith.

What concerns me most is that in a desperate desire to appear meaningful and relevant, the Church uses its authority to make statements about which it is not authorised to speak. As a result it loses its authority to make the statements on those matters about which only the Church can talk. Bishops should instead be so full of the message of the Gospel that they touch the hearts and convert the minds of politicians and economists alike.

John Selwyn Gummer is Chairman of the Conservative Party, MP for Suffolk Coastal, and a member of the General Synod of the Church of England for the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese. This article just appeared in DSB News, the newsletter of the Methodist Church, Division of Social Responsibility.



Mrs Thatcher's regal progress in the Far East demonstrated her confidence that resistance has been routed.

The toll of victims mounts in six years of Thatcherism

ROBIN COOK

BY THE end of this week Mrs Thatcher will have completed six years in power. She herself appears to harbour no doubts as to whether the anniversary should be an occasion for us to rejoice. Already her regal progress round half the airports of the Far East has amply demonstrated her satisfaction with what she has achieved and her confidence that resistance to it has been routed. Running a country is like bringing up children she told us (twice). The tone of the assertion conveyed no hint of a suspicion that her conduct of the nation's affairs had been any less of an untroubled success than her raising of Mark Thatcher.

There is of course an alternative perspective which results in a different scorecard of the winners and losers from the struggles of the past six years. Conversely, the casualty figures were supplied last week with the publication of the Breaking The Nation, third in the series of commentaries on Thatcher's Britain which began with the aptly titled A Guide to the Ruins.

The panoramic record of the use to which Mrs Thatcher has put her power will no doubt merely irritate the cave of left philosophers who argue that there is not sufficient evidence that Mrs Thatcher — or any other Thatcher — even exists. Ralph Miliband's piece in last Monday's Agenda was a splendid contribution to the literature of such left apostrophising. All through Britain socialist readers must have been momentarily thrilled as they were swept along in his analysis that the 1983 election was the worst result for the Conservative Party since 1931, and coincided with a massive growth in support for the values of collective bargaining. Perhaps we should ask for a recount. Or perhaps, somebody should present Professor Miliband with a book token, with which to purchase Breaking The Nation. There he will find ample evidence that

Thatcherism exists and now daily adds to the swelling roll of victims appressed by it.

To admit the existence of Thatcherism is not to concede that she has majority support. On the contrary, in spite of six years of being locked in the nursery and lectured by nanny the nation stubbornly cherishes a set of values wholly at variance with the way she runs the country.

Any compendium of polls reflects the same picture that we can draw from subjective experience. There are still large majorities for a socialised health service, for redistribution to improve the lot of the state poor, particularly pensioners, and for government intervention to reduce unemployment. Conversely the majority opposed to an extension of public ownership has actually got smaller over the past two years in which Mrs Thatcher has been busy privatising all state assets that were not positively bolted to the floor.

The impressive achievement of Mrs Thatcher has not been to shift the nation to the Right, but to shove the Tory Party to the Right while retaining its share of popularity among an electorate that has by and large not altered in its social values. The distance to which she has successfully frogmarched the Tory Party in the direction of her prejudices is clearly mapped out in the pages of her record, and marks a clear break with the concessions which previous Tory Governments made to the centre. It is true that she has secured this political coup without producing a single original thought or even expressing stale thoughts in anything other than images of suburban banality. Nevertheless, she herself is such an accurate embodiment of the beliefs and priorities of her government that we are justified in

regarding her set of values as Thatcherism.

Breaking The Nation helps to supply the empirical data by which we can identify the two prime characteristics of Thatcherism and like the double helix they provide a common connecting thread, but at the same time twining in contradictory directions.

The first characteristic is the resurrection of liberal economics. Those who fondly imagined that Keynes had driven a stake through that caliginous set of economic doctrines for all times have been confounded. Mrs Thatcher really does believe that the economic future of Britain is best left to emerge from the unplanned pursuit of individual greed.

The practical result has been monumentally disastrous. The pursuit of sound money has produced higher unemployment than when it was last attempted in the Thirties. Each year has witnessed a new record high in bankruptcies, spurred on by the frantic cry of you Eyles that Britain would be wealthier if it had more and bigger bankruptcies. For the first time since the industrial revolution we are importing more goods than we export and will have nothing with which to plug the gap when the oil runs out.

Yet Thatcherism appears to have smashed the learning curve along with our industrial base. Currently the frontiers of market forces are being still further expanded by breaking down the barriers that have been erected to protect the most vulnerable workers against exploitation. Yesterday it was the Fair Wages Resolution; today it is the Wages Council. For the first time since Atlee we have a government with a consistent policy on low pay; it believes in promoting the Federation of Conservative Students, who in ideological terms may be

regarded as Mrs Thatcher's grandchildren, have carried the cult of individualist laissez-faire to its perverse extreme with their notorious rejection of any law on drug abuse as an infringement of personal liberty. Ideologically this demand is wholly rooted in Victorian liberalism and owes absolutely nothing to the long and occasionally honourable, conservative tradition emphasising order and the need for a powerful state to impose discipline through repression.

Here we come to the paradox of Thatcherism. Her own commitment in economic affairs to rolling back the state's presence goes sharply into reverse whenever she contemplates home policy, and as a result Thatcherism is an uneasy synthesis of laissez-faire economics and social authoritarianism. At a philosophical level it is impossible to reconcile this inconsistency, but in practical terms repression of liberty may be the necessary corollary to freeing market forces. We should not forget the unguarded comment of Nigel Lawson in Opposition that Britain lacked technical means to manage monetarism — namely water cannons.

This streak of social authoritarianism has been a particularly marked feature of Mrs Thatcher's second term of office. In that period Britain has for the first time witnessed during the miners' strike the police force operating under central coordination to control the movement of citizens from one part of the country to another. The elementary right to free association has been revoked at Cheltenham in the name of national security. A civil servant has been locked up for revealing ministerial plans for news management, and another has been indicted before a retired jury. With fine disregard for the affection for checks and

balances of conservative constitutionalists, Mrs Thatcher is intent on demolishing major centres of resistance in local government, and commenced the task with a paving bill which for the first time in the history of universal suffrage suspended a democratic election.

Now the hues of the authoritarian state are providing an unwelcome tinge to the welfare state. This is the Government which marshalled a whole new army of social security snoots and purchased 1,000 binoculars for them, the essential tools in calculating entitlement to benefit. This is the Government which trebled unemployment and then set up special benefits teams to roam the country to investigate whether the unemployed were really out of work. This is the Government that set up a wholly bogus social security office in Oxford for the sole purpose of arresting those who came to claim benefit.

Those trapped into dependence on benefit have discovered that for them Thatcherism does not offer an increase in personal liberty, but a ruthless expansion of state intrusion into their privacy. A Guardian report on the next Downing Street of unemployed teenagers from Merseyside caught this fact of Thatcherism in the quote from a claimant: "You belong to the state, you are run by the state. That's how it feels in Kirkby."

This is the Britain of which the stench revolts Labour MPs as whiffs of it rise from their surgery notes. It is a Britain that begs to be cleansed by a movement which can supply the antidote to Thatcherism by freeing its own double helix from a commitment to harnessing economic forces through community planning while liberating the individual from state control. May the next annual guide to Thatcher's Britain be the last.

Robin Cook is Labour MP for Livingston.

The vanishing opportunity at Bonn

One trouble with this week's Bonn economic summit is that it is being held in Bonn. Memories of what happened at the last summit held in the West German capital in 1978, when the seven leading industrial nations adopted a policy of coordinated expansion, have haunted summitry ever since. At the 1978 summit West Germany pledged expansion measures equivalent to one per cent of gross domestic product, Japan proffered increased growth of 1.5 per cent, the US adopted a series of special measures and the other four chipped in with bespoke contributions of their own. Unlike some previous summits the top three delivered their promises. It was, arguably, the most successful economic initiative by the big powers since Bretton Woods. Until, that is, the second oil crisis broke out a few months later after the Iranian revolution, and plunged the world's economies into fresh convulsions.

There are, unhappily, no signs of a repeat performance this year. The United States, of course, wants Europe to adopt American supply-side policies to remove "rigidities" from their economies which, over a longer timescale, might produce some results. Italy and France have been muttering about Germany and the UK expanding their economies faster than otherwise through tax cuts. But Germany, with memories of 1978, is in no mood to respond, and the UK is predictably not interested in U-turns, even sensible, shared ones. This summit is to be London and Williamsburg writ large. Less inflation, less protectionism (coupled with an early start to the next round of trade talks), continuation of the "case by case" approach to the international debt crisis, more emphasis on "structural adjustments" and a re-affirmation of democratic values by the summit seven (who fought four to three against each other in the last world war) on the eve of the VE-day celebrations.

What is the point—it is argued—in stimulating economies which are already enjoying sustained growth and which could receive a fresh kick from falling inflation and interest rates?

But this, alas is offering hostages to fortune. The annual inflation rate at 6.1 per cent has risen 65 per cent since the Thatcher low point of 3.7 per cent (May and June, 1983) and interest rates are much higher now than when the Prime Minister embarked on her fiscal squeeze in 1979 to bring them down. Not entirely her fault, of course, since world interest rates are largely governed by the US Government's ravenous appetite for foreign savings.

Practically everyone, including both houses of Congress, now firmly believe that the U.S. deficit must come down. What makes this summit different from others is that the rhetoric has a better chance of becoming reality.

A lower deficit would almost certainly be accompanied by lower real (after allowing for inflation) interest rates which would diminish the attractiveness of dollar investments to the international investing community and so cause the dollar to decline further relative to other currencies. This would, after a suitable time lag, restore much of the lost competitiveness of US industry and, hopefully, defuse the volcanic pressures for protectionism in America.

All of which ought to remind the rest of the world how much of the "sustained" growth it brags about is actually the result of the United States being turned, temporarily, into an importers' paradise.

So, this week in Bonn, instead of being a celebration of inertia, ought to be an opportunity for filling in the growth vacuum brought about by the long overdue "structural adjustments" taking place in the US.

Conditions are about as favourable as they are ever likely to be for an orchestrated refutation by Japan, West Germany and Britain. The risk of another explosion in oil prices (barring unforeseen circumstances) minimal. Most fears are based on a possible destabilising collapse which extra economic growth might fend off. The risks to inflation are also minimal because there is much underutilised capacity in Europe and, in any case, a falling dollar will reduce the cost of imported raw materials. US politicians often refer to Euro-sclerosis, implying that Continental economies are brimful of restrictive practices and subsidies. The real sclerosis may be in economic risk taking. What we really need now is a revival of the Bonn spirit of 1978 accompanied by a prayer that enlightenment might strike in the same place twice.

Counting the damage to civil liberties

Britain's need for an effective and credible civil liberties organisation has never been greater than it is today. Long vaunted freedoms of conscience, assembly and movement are under growing assault. Both by its rhetoric and by its actions, this government has done more than most to pen back these freedoms. So this weekend's annual conference of the National Council for Civil Liberties had a special responsibility to ensure a broad base for the defence of threatened rights. Such a task has never been easy and, on the whole, it has been the forces of the political right, not the left, which have done most to frustrate that aim.

Yet at the weekend it was the left which preferred to stay in its emotional corner. The conference voted through a series of motions which will inflict major damage on the NCCL's recent attempts to broaden its constituency and its credibility. In particular, it refused to countenance the interim report of its own inquiry into civil liberties and the miners' dispute which had examined not only the abuses perpetrated by the police and the courts but also the threats to civil liberty from unions and pickets. The more pragmatic leftwing activists in the NCCL—many of them people who have done far more for civil liberties than the council's knee-jerk critics on the right have ever done—are now trying to pass yesterday's decisions off as of relatively little importance. They are claiming that the NCCL's commitment to even-handedness is undiminished. But that is not how it will be seen from the outside.

From the outside it will be seen as a deliberate refusal to offend the trade unions. In defiance of the encouragingly open-minded post-strike mood elsewhere, in which the mistakes and abuses of the union's tactics are being coldly dissected, the NCCL conference effectively refused to look these lessons in the eye. As a result, the NCCL's inquiry team looks set to resign, the council's general secretary could go too, and the new all-party civil liberties group, which held its first meeting only last week, may be still-born.

Of course, the issues which divide the NCCL—like whether a union member has an untrammelled right to work during a strike or whether racist groups like the National Front are entitled to equal civil liberty treatment—are complex and difficult. But civil liberties are about the protection and enhancement of lawful diversity. NCCL is a damaged movement for failing to uphold that principle. And the defence of civil liberties, at a time when it is more than ever needed, is grievously wounded too.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Role call for teachers

Sir.—Teacher morale today is at an all-time low because at a time of rising standards, technological advance and greater professional commitment, we find ourselves treated with contempt by our employers. We very often work in dilapidated buildings which are not redecorated for years at a time.

When we ask for improved conditions, we are told that nothing can be done because the education budget has been used up on teachers' salaries. Let policemen finance their panda cars and soldiers their weapons!

As professionals, anxious to improve our classroom performance, we attend a great many courses during the year. Many of us run clubs in our spare time and all of us are involved in parent-teacher events. We are teachers, social workers, policemen and, in many cases, substitute parents. We do not complain of these roles but we do resent the fact that we are not given the respect or confidence we deserve.

At a time when we should be expanding our national resources and educating our children to take their place in the modern world, we are forced back into a rigid system of under-financed education. No wonder highly gifted young teachers are leaving the profession.

Sheila de Alteria, London, NW11.

Sir.—Amid so much publicity about the teachers' pay claim, may I draw attention to what they are not claiming?

They are not claiming this year for complete restoration of pay levels set by a perfectly respectable, government appointed review body over ten years ago. They are not asking for several thousand pounds of compensation for all the years that their salaries have been substantially below the proper level.

They are in fact claiming for a very modest step towards the restoration of a correct salary.

Sir Keith Joseph has stated in parliament that the present claim is not remotely affordable. If a modern, industrialised state such as Britain really cannot afford to provide adequate resources to educate its people, and teachers' salaries form only a part of this, then, either third world status cannot be very far in the future or perhaps somebody is being dishonest.

Robert Brown, Stevenage, Herts.

Sir.—I refer to your story (April 25) about whether or not the NUT may be persuaded to discontinue strike action and re-enter pay talks.

Perhaps the best way of bringing this about would be to ask Mr Kinnock to go along to the NUT and repeat his words recorded on your back page on the same day: "The people who say they can help youngsters and their terrible problems with strikes are more interested in their own delusions than in the kids' realities."

Peter Dawson, Professional Association of Teachers, Derby.

Sir.—The Charter for Jobs is an extraordinary and depressing triumph of hope over experience. Its protagonists, the politicians, civil servants and other policy-makers of the late sixties and seventies, whose economic policies failed so notably and, in so failing, paved the way for the bitter, heartless dogma of Thatcher years, appear to have learnt nothing from their, and our, trauma, as they take up once more their discredited formulae.

Where in the Charter is there any recognition of the quality of work, both in terms of personal development and social usefulness and as to whether employment induces dependency or has an enabling function; of the need to ensure wide access to and balance between formal and informal economic activity; or of the necessity of abolishing the poverty and unemployment traps, redistributing income and opening up the labour market?

No attention is given to the desirability of directing and controlling technological change rather than dominating them, enhancing their skills rather than displacing

them; to the ecological imperative of ensuring that new jobs conserve resources and the environment, rather than depleting and destroying them; or to the danger of moving towards a dual society run by a highly-paid technocratic elite, in which the work of the majority becomes increasingly marginal economically (the Charter's "job guarantees" looks suspiciously like a means of institutionalising this marginality).

The most dispiriting aspect of the Charter is its continuing flabby reliance on "more output" as the means of achieving greater employment, without discussing what sort of output it has in mind. Fall to the realists these days and they will freely admit that GNP is a most imperfect measure of human welfare, yet the Charter persists in calling for unbridled growth.

In a spirit of unrestrained industrialism, with seemingly no regard for what is actually growing—the costs or benefits of industrial society or what the ecological implications may be.

All these questions are barely touched by the Other Economic Summit (TOES), which recently had its second international Confer-

ence. Perhaps I am being hard on the Charter for Jobs, judging it too harshly on the basis of its first published document. Perhaps it will turn its attention to these crucial matters in due course. We must hope so, for with its resources and political clout, it could make real progress with these difficult issues. On present evidence, however, the Charter seems to be backing resolutely away from the future with its eyes fixed firmly on the past.

Yours faithfully, Paul Ekins, Director, The Other Economic Summit, 42 Warriner Gardens, London SW11.

Sir.—The edited version of the first document from Charter for Jobs (April 22), claims that the rate at which machines are replacing human labour is lower now than in the 1970s and 1980s. This claim is based on the grounds that the increase in output per worker-hour is lower now than then. I believe an important consideration has not been taken into account.

Firstly, productivity is not only affected by the type of

machine an operator has to do a job. It is also affected by his level of skill, by his working environment, by other aspects of the working methods and by methods of payment.

Secondly, because of the poor performance of manufacturing industry during the recession, investment in high-technology machinery has not been as high as perhaps the press would have us believe.

Also, the cost of high technology machinery is continuously falling while the capabilities are continuously increasing. It is very easy for a production engineer to justify the purchase of a new machine if it will reduce his labour force because there is an obvious, and easily calculated, cost saving.

I believe that we have yet to see the full consequences of the widespread use of modern technology in the traditional manufacturing industries. Unless demand can grow very quickly so that the rapid increase in productivity which will result can be absorbed, then the dole queues will continue to lengthen.—Yours sincerely, Ian Woods, Hitchin, Herts.

One law for the rich

Sir.—You deserve congratulations for your leader "The law of the cash register" (April 25) in pointing out that the vast incomes of some lawyers, command a world of high financial aid solicitor—street level of solicitor whose interests are regularly ignored alike by the Law Society and the Lord Chancellor.

You say that our earnings are unlikely to stand a comparison with that of a senior police officer. I have news for you. In many cases they do not even compare with those of a lowly police sergeant.

Twenty one years after qualifying as a solicitor, my own earnings before tax (and of course with no pension provision) in my last financial year were below £10,000.

I know from information reaching me from all parts of the country that I am not alone, and yet we are required to exercise the same degree of care and skill as our better paid brethren in what are often very demanding cases. We are tired of hearing from judges and others that we must be more diligent or that for a pitance (too doted sometimes for nothing at all) we must be at the beck and call of all. In many cases the only thing which keeps us going is a passionate concern for justice.

but we cannot pay rent, rates, heat, lighting, salaries, wages, and yet we are determined to deny us. One is driven to the unhappy conclusion that Mrs Thatcher's concern for the maintenance of law and order means a highly paid police force, with money to burn on lavishly built new crown courts, but no provision for the maintenance of justice for all, and surely if we solicitors cannot afford to stay in practice, who will defend the poor and the needy?—Yours faithfully, Stanley Best, Torrington, Devon.

In private

Sir.—On April 1 Norman Fowler simultaneously introduced restrictions on the drugs which doctors may issue NHS prescriptions for, and raised the NHS prescription charge to £2, telling the House of Commons that this was to contain the costs of the NHS and to make the NHS more efficient.

Like thousands of other doctors I have been bombarded with mail from drug companies pointing out that the retail price of a small supply of some blacklisted preparations is marginally less than £2, and urging me to issue private prescriptions.

With a green paper shortly to be published about the primary care system, these measures appear to be stimulating demand, previously negligible, for private general practitioner services. Would this have been possible without the constitutional change brought about by the present government that to mislead the House of Commons need no longer force a resignation from government or Parliament? Simon Fordham, Nottingham.

Miscellany at large

Sir.—The puerility and the dangerous hypocrisy of the British government's "tit-for-tat" policy on East-West espionage encourage me to violate for the first time the Official Secrets Act which I signed some 31 years ago.

Alongside hundreds of other National Servicemen, I was trained as a Special Operator (a branch of the Army Signals) with the sole purpose of "listening in" to the radio broadcasts of potentially enemy countries.

Most of my time was spent in writing down the coded messages of Hungarian Radio units. We were all fully aware that our Eastern European counter-parts were every bit as active as we were.

During the final phase of my two years of espionage I was assigned to listen to Radio Vatican, an ironic choice in the light of my present occupation.—Yours (Fr) John Medcalf, St Anselm's Catholic Church, Hindhead, Surrey.

Sir.—I have news for Mrs Mary Smith (Letters, April 22). Quite the smallest, most smoke-ridden book I have ever borrowed from the li-

brary is Jonathan Gathorn-Hardy's riveting tome about G.P.s, aptly named *Doctors*. For some days I would not have it in the house, until the city went into a state of alarm, and with it I hoped, the danger to myself in reading it.

Perhaps the full disclosure of this admirable work (which I have yet to complete) drove the previous reader into a state of acute, chain-smoking anxiety. Be that as it may, though I have long thought it possible that doctors might seriously damage one's health, it had not occurred to me that this might apply even to the books which are written about them.—Yours etc, Angela Partridge, Thaxby, Yorks.

Sir.—Even allowing for Britain's free press and President Reagan's policy toward a handful of Nicaraguans one was surprised to read (April 23), "European governments should combine in research on a new generation of weapons—either by contributing to the US Star Wars Project"—Yours, K. W. Davis, Orpington, Kent.

A COUNTRY DIARY

THE LAKE DISTRICT: A wild morning with the tops hidden in cloud and a bitter nor'easter sweeping furries of sleet across a brimming Haweswater weakened an earlier resolve to do a worthy round and I found myself, shamefacedly, crawling along the Old Course Road, a winding track for my lack of moral fibre. This was the way—until about 1736 when a graveyard was provided at Mardale chapel—the dead were carried, strapped on the backs of ponies, for burial at Shap. Walking the lonely fell track

to Swindale, about a third of the way, this dark morning it was easy to imagine those long, sad journeys—sometimes, no doubt, in worse weather than this. To brighten the way, though, there was the tumult of the plunging neck of falls in Hoggill Beck and, for a while, the sound of the waterfall, a merry, yelping sound of a fox on the far, mist-laden shore. For some time I searched the fellsides, below the cloud, with binoculars for the streaming sounds of the moor, alone with my thoughts, had been the best part of the morning.



Sir.—John Rodda has a nerve to claim (April 23) that Manchester's bid to host the 1992 Olympics is irrelevant.

On his criteria alone Manchester will meet all of the requirements of a successful Olympic applicant—a city that has one of the leading European airports, a city that has a vast range of hotel facilities, excellent cultural facilities and a good sporting pedigree.

John Rodda should recognise that if London hosts the games, then in 1992 either the city will grind to a halt from the additional flood of visitors to the Games on top of London's existing tourists; or London's important

tourist traffic will be driven away by the fear of the numbers flocking to the Games.

Manchester has the ability and the will to host the Games and John Rodda should not prevent us from submitting a positive bid to the British Olympic Association.—Yours sincerely, (Councillor) Kevin Linn, Manchester City Council, Manchester.

Sir.—I was saddened to read (April 23) that the Government is to support the City of London's bid to stage the 1992 Olympics. A great opportunity will thus be missed to bring fresh incentive to another region.

Government support for staging the Olympics in Manchester, Birmingham or Edinburgh would perhaps allow some redistribution of employment and wealth. Many visitors would wish to see London. Already most tourists do. Those who would come to see the Olympics could still visit that city.

But I forget: the welfare of the whole of our nation does not seem to be the concern of the present government and yet another opportunity for imaginative action is passed over in continuation of their policy to give to those who already have.—Yours faithfully, H. Delany, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

A return to cabinet government or merely a mirage?



Hugo Young

TWO MODELS of political propriety, each as admirable as the other, emerged from ministerial Whitehall last week. The first, and doubtless more trivial, was put on show by Mr Michael Heseltine. He had to select Britain's first astronaut. "It was a difficult decision," he disclosed, adding, to bring our wretched further, that it was also "lonely". We may imagine him pacing his room in solitude at the Ministry of Defence, wrestling responsibility with the invidious choice.

It may seem a little improbable that the Secretary of State himself should have assumed this awesome responsibility. What is there to choose between four astonishingly fit men, all trained within an inch of their earthly lives? And what are the minister's credentials? The answer lies in Mr Heseltine's obscure but urgent insistence that the decision was "not political". What this means is that someone had to cut through the vicious infighting between the services and choose the man from the RAF. Heseltine did not flinch. Here we have a minister prepared to pay more than lip-service to the constitutional doctrine of ministerial responsibility.

The second model is also reassuring. It reinforces the parallel doctrine of collective responsibility. After the agonised minister, the deliberative cabinet. This was the model exhibited in reports of the Royal College of Physicians. Mr Fowler's plans for a radical reconstruction of the welfare state.

It is true that the story was of a cabinet agenda suddenly changed to exclude the Fowler plan. But this was only a postponement, allegedly for Mr Fowler to prepare himself better. The headlines, although mildly embarrassing for the Government, conveyed an image of perfect constitutionalism. The cabinet stood ready for debate. It would examine the facts once they were sorted out between Mr Fowler and Mr Nigel Lawson. It would open a rational discussion. It would make a decision, just like the textbooks say it always does.

What we are witnessing, via the non-event of the Fowler-Lawson showdown, must seem, in short, to be the rebirth of cabinet government. For a prime minister famed for her tyrannical authority, and now facing a series of unpopular decisions, this happy event looks like having some timely advantages. Yet so abrupt a reversal is it of the recent norm that a few questions are in order.

A TYPICAL meeting of the present cabinet was once described to me by a participant. It begins with "legislative business", when the parliamentary timetable for the coming week is read out by the leader of the House. This is not a moment for decision. Since Mr Biffen has already done all the necessary deals with the opposition parties, cabinet is rarely permitted to do more than listen.

Item two is "whipping". The chief whip reads out the three-line whip he is scheduling. The main deliberative ingredient here is the advance intelligence it gives to ministers who want to finalise their thinking on arrangements. Notes are despatched to private offices to get ministerial "pairs" fixed up ahead of the game, to relieve the great men of some long nights' voting.

Next comes "foreign affairs". The foreign secretary gives a lengthy tour of horrors east and west. Sir Geoffrey Howe is not the most arousing of voices to attend to. His unending monologues have been known to have hallucinatory effects. Ministers sometimes feel they are in a darkened room in company with an elusive bluebottle. Its buzzing is incessant as it is unintelligible.

And there is no quick relief. The fourth item is "European Community". The bluebottle drones on, punctuated now by more rousing interventions from the special pleaders. Jostling from Agriculture, Tebbit from Treasury, Mr Lawson from Treasury, all obliging Howe to spend too much time ensuring that all departments march hand-in-hand with Brussels.

Only after these rituals have been completed does cabinet usually turn to other matters. And rare indeed have been the moments at which it has taken, at these famous Thursday meetings, anything resembling a strategic "decision", of the kind which the doctrine of collective responsibility, fortified by every news outlet in the land, regularly imputes to it.

Very few of the big decisions of the Thatcher government seem to have been taken by the cabinet in solemn conclave assembled. Going back to the beginning, it

was not rational round-table discussion by the first cabinet which committed them to the notorious Clegg pay awards in 1979, which increased VAT and cut income tax, which produced the Zimbabwe settlement, which set the course for new labour laws, which decided to privatise far more than anyone anticipated in 1979, or which determined the near-destruction of local government.

The important decisions taken by the full cabinet have mostly concerned public spending at the margin of the budget. Even here, as Simon Jenkins shows in an article in the *Financial Times*, the "Star Chamber" process, which appears in the new issue of *Political Quarterly*, deliberations are the reverse of Olympian. They are a horse-trade, in a fast market.

Against this historic background, how credible is the picture now being presented of the dialogue waiting to take place on Fowler? Are we really to imagine an open-minded debate ensuing, on the basis of the facts he has assembled, and the proposals he has made?

Well, maybe this will be the exceptional case. There are reasons for thinking it ought to be. No area of state activity is in greater need of reform than the social security system; inefficient, unjust, wasteful and mean at the same time. But no area, also, offers more opportunity for acts of political folly.

For the Thatcher government, indeed, the decisions now impending about welfare mark a critical watershed, its aspiration towards radicalism, and its studied rejection of previous priorities for the poor, must drive it in the direction in which both Mr Fowler and Mr Lawson want to go: their differences appear not to be about the strategy but about its figur-

ing and, to some extent, its range. If Thatcherism, six years on, declines to come to grips with the largest of all areas of state activity, arguably it will be finished as a distinctive political philosophy.

If, on the other hand, Thatcherism does grasp the nettle, arguably the Thatcher government will be finished as a third-term prospect. A further redistribution of resources from the poor to the rich—which is what all the smoke-signals have clearly indicated—would be the product of Mr Fowler's money-saving schemes—money to be savagely contented by a government without serious opposition. But 1985 looks very different from 1979. Opposition is finally retrieving a bit of credibility. And the Parliamentary Conservative party is beginning to look to its seats.

NO MORE obvious case could be invented for the strategic judgment of the cabinet mind. For the cabinet, these apprehensions will be filtered into the discussions when eventually they take place. Certainly the prime minister will want it to become very public that whatever choices are made are not, on this occasion, her choices more than anyone else's.

But in essence what we are witnessing in all this noise about a cancelled agenda, is a mirage. Most of the choices have already been brokered through the cabinet committee which has been working on them for months. The publicised disagreement between Mr Fowler and Mr Lawson exposes not some inadequacy in the information submitted for cabinet adjudication, but a delay in the compromise

that must be hammered out before the cabinet meets, and presented to it for the rubber-stamp which ministers hitherto uninvolved are hardly in a position to withhold.

There is nothing dramatically new about this. As between Wilson, Heath, Callaghan and Thatcher, the degree of prime ministerial domination and cabinet exclusion has differed—from time to time, and on issue to issue. The tendency to fix things in committees is an absolutely natural feature of modern government. What Mrs Thatcher has done is to extend a process already blessed by precedent. It appeals to her desire for speed and control, to fix as much as she can before cabinet rather than in cabinet. This is a process already employed with the political weakness of the great majority of her ministers, make her one of the most formidable operators of the cabinet committee system in recent history.

This does not mean it is pointless being a cabinet minister. Far from it. Departments have to be run and decisions have to be taken, not all of them by the prime minister. To be a minister is to play one's part in one's own field, in bypassing cabinet itself. Besides, one may, if one is bold, and infrequently to the climate in which one's colleagues, the secluded cells of their own sub-committees, are making their own decisions. As the Government toils, and the news managers struggle to keep control, it is a question of which images ring true. As living proof of the constitution in action, I am more persuaded by an Heseltine in his anguished solitude than by the members of the cabinet awaiting, in their ivory tower, the materials for a truly collective decision.

One law for the rich

Death of the Mail - inside story

Laurence Gandar, its former editor, on the end of South Africa's best-known paper

Media File....

IT USED to be said that if ever the Rand Daily Mail came to grief it would be because it sailed too close to the wind in its attacks on the apartheid policies of the Nationalist Government.

In the event the Mail has been killed off by its own parent company, South African Associated Newspapers, on purely commercial grounds. Its losses, the company said, had become unsustainable.

Yet there is a distinct political thread running through the saga of the Mail's demise and, yes, the Government has indeed secured a remarkable political victory in the elimination of its principal press opponent, not least because it has happened in such an oblique fashion as to obscure the Government's role in the affair.

It is perfectly true, as the SAAN board of directors claims, that the newspaper industry is seriously over-traded, and that all papers are suffering the effects of this. But a crucial point here - and it has been insufficiently appreciated in all the long discussions about the Mail's financial problems - is that the Government deliberately set out in 1976 to harm or, better still, silence

the Mail altogether by clandestinely starting up The Citizen, a key operation of the infamous Information Scandal.

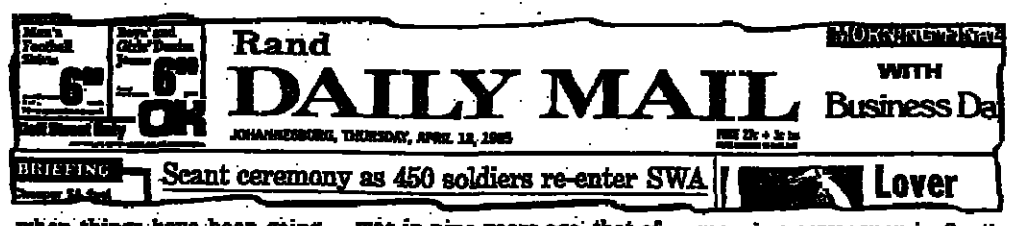
The Mail became overnight the only English-language daily paper which had to face a direct competitor in its own language medium, its own territory and its own time span.

What is more, the Mail's new rival was not a bona fide free enterprise competitor risking its own capital in a fair fight. The Government offered it a further least R20m of the taxpayers' money for the purpose.

How SAAN met, or rather failed to meet, this competition is another story and not a particularly glorious one either. Instead of treating the arrival of The Citizen as a serious threat right at the start, it tended to behave as if it were a minor nuisance that it would go away if ignored.

What is worse, by publicly agonising at regular intervals about its losses it provided every encouragement to The Citizen and its parent company, Perskor, to hang in there until SAAN eventually folds.

I have handed it out for The Citizen for sticking it out for it has clearly been losing a bundle too, and this at a time



when things have been going particularly badly for Perskor itself.

I believe there is clear evidence that Perskor was in no condition to face a prolonged war of attrition and would have itself been forced to pull out if SAAN had not so obviously been suffering a collapse of will.

And for the 82-year-old Rand Daily Mail, with its proud traditions built up through many a stormy battle, to have thrown in the towel at the feet of a comparative newcomer of such dishonourable origins is, in my book, shameful.

But would the Mail's situation have improved greatly if The Citizen, instead, were to have been seen off at the first? Perhaps not at first, although it could reasonably expect a useful circulation gain and some small extra advertising revenue. It would, however, have put the Mail back into the same sort of competitive situation it

was in nine years ago, that of being the only English language morning paper in its circulation area, a valuable attribute when the next economic upswing gets under way.

And let us not forget that up till the current recession started 18 months ago, SAAN was making fat profits and its shares stood at their highest levels ever on the stock exchange. As everyone knows, most companies are reporting sliding profits and even losses these days. There is nothing special about SAAN in this regard.

What of the Mail's present huge losses? Can they simply be overlooked even when, according to SAAN, they could be used to threaten the existence of the group itself? Certainly they cannot be wished away and the board is right to regard them in the gravest light.

But here one encounters something of a mystery. The Mail is still by far the biggest

morning newspaper in South Africa, circulating in the richest and most populous region. It is still, with its outstanding business section, arguably the best overall morning paper. Its reputation as a crusading newspaper, strong on investigative reporting, remains high. Its editorial policies, contentious as they may have been many years ago, have proved both right and relevant and are increasingly being accepted as part of the conventional wisdom of the country today, even by the Nationalist Government itself.

With its truly multi-racial readership, with the respect it enjoys among black opinion-formers and with the goodwill shown towards it by the bulk of black urban dwellers, there is no other newspaper so favourably positioned as the Mail to cash in on the vast mass consumer market of tomorrow, fuelled by burgeoning black buying power.

How is it not possible to market successfully a product with these great advantages? This is a question one asks oneself over and over again though it is essentially one for management to answer.

That there have been management lapses at SAAN is widely believed, the most recent of them being in the vital area of circulation/distribution. The latest issue of Finance Week, which has in the past shown itself to be remarkably well informed and perceptive in press matters, puts the matter bluntly. Under a heading "Management by trial and error, especially error," it says that when the hyperbole of the outcry at the Mail's closure has quietened, "what emerges is a frightening commentary on the quality of SAAN management."

Finance Week is not alone in finding fault in this sphere. In a report which SAAN itself commissioned in 1983, the two-man team from the London Financial Times called in to investigate the scheme of turning the Mail into a financial daily, reached the following conclusions:

"There is little prospect of finding a solution to the RDM's problems without extensive management changes."

The newspaper has considerable strengths which appear not to have been properly researched or exploited.

What adds to the sense of tragedy in my mind is the belief I have that the man who could have turned the Mail around was on the spot and in an ideal position for the task. I refer to Raymond Louw, a former editor who was sidelined to the post of general manager of SAAN there to be steadily isolated from the action and finally fired, adding to the long string of editors got rid of in various ways. He is a man of tremendous energy, drive and tenacity, capable of inspiring a strong team spirit among the staff and possessing what has been so sadly lacking in the past - an unquenchable faith in the Mail and its future.

As is all too evident, the closure of the Mail is not just a domestic industry matter, the outcome of straight forward rivalry between competing groups. Not only is it a grievous blow to the strength and wellbeing of the English-language press as a whole, but it has profound implications for the country's internal politics on the one hand and its external relations on the other.

UNDISMAYED by the Media Page's sceptical reaction last year to his Worldnet Satellite press conference system, Van der Merwe has gone right ahead and mounted a daily programme schedule around it, making a different view of American culture available to anyone around the world served by a television station willing to pluck it out of the skies.

Worldnet was launched in November 1983 by the US Information Agency's television and film service, linking Washington by satellite with 80 US embassies and post offices overseas so that local journalists can be brought in to take part in face-to-face multi-point link-ups, to question US officials, to interview State Department spokesmen, to interview Caspar Weinberger, and indeed Helmut Kohl.

Undoubtedly an imaginative use of modern technology for what USAID delicately terms "public diplomacy," especially for journalists who will never get to Washington, the scheme has been observed that the two-way distance device leaves control of the discussion squarely with the star guest.

Set against the permanent system, Worldnet has been used regularly since, and provided footage for the British news on occasion. But now, as the interventionist television becomes just one weekly slot in a Monday-to-Friday schedule laid out just like real television, kicking off with a half-hour host-and-guest news magazine, its first editions went from the death of Brazil's Neves, through the Reagan administration's problems over the West German cemetery visit and the emigration crisis, to offer, to We Are the World, Baltimore kids' fund-raising, and an autistic marathon runner. The tone is chummy.

Next, English Made Easy (aka English-American Style), a five-minute sequence with the man from the Berlitz schools explaining, on this occasion, the meaning of that speech-act called "countdown," and "roger," and even "Houston."

It does not quite come without strings. America Today is free, but other material might have some restrictions which would have to be cleared for re-transmission, but the USA is clearly aware that cable operators, British included, hungry for material, to fill empty hours will be happy to get this daily package from Washington if they can get it pulled off the satellite. They also hope it will give a more positive view of the USA than purveyed through Dallas or Dynast.

Barry Cox challenges the role of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission Slap judgment

IT IS unlikely that the Broadcasting Complaints Commission now well into its fourth year - will ever win the approval of the television and radio journalists whose work it monitors. Few people will therefore be surprised at London Weekend Television's indignant reaction to last week's BBC adjudication which upheld part of a complaint by Patrick Harrington, prominent National Front, and North London Poly student, against The London Programme.

However, we are not just piqued at losing part of this particular argument. The decision makes clearer what the BBC thinks its real role is. Since we are stuck with the Commission, broadcasters could at least hope its activities would throw up a few useful thoughts about journalistic ethics. Instead, last week's ruling (along with other recent judgments against BBC Radio's Checkpoint) suggest that, far from intellectually engaging with difficult practical problems, the BBC wants to slap journalists wrists whenever it has the opportunity.

In The London Programme case, Patrick Harrington complained about an edition last May which had looked at the attempt by some North London Poly students to prevent him studying there in the normal way because of his National Front associations.

Harrington had two complaints. First, that the programme had unfairly emphasised the part of the National Front in the story; second, that it had denied the opportunity to answer allegations made about him by other interviewees.

Both of these raised important issues. The first went to the heart of the difficulty encountered whenever journalists try to interpret the events they are describing, and the second addressed the familiar but vital problem of making sure all participants involved in a television programme know the context in which they are appearing.

The opportunity thus afforded the BBC to do some useful work in these crucial areas was the greater because Patrick Harrington's presentation of his complaints was intelligent and carefully formulated. It provoked an equally elegant and considered response from LWT, masterminded by the BBC's executive producer of The London Programme.

Unfortunately the BBC's efforts were not always in the same league. It admitted it was faced with a clear conflict of evidence on both counts. In both cases it has dodged the implications of this, and has chosen to deliver a rather crude piece of rough justice, effectively backing LWT in the first complaint and Harrington in the second.

Worse, on the point that matters for the future - how to handle interviewees fairly - the BBC has come up with a dictum which, if it were to be followed, would be either impracticable or tyrannical.

A brief word on the procedures. The original

complaint is in writing, as is the response from the broadcaster. Each side is given a further written opportunity to enlarge on its position or comment on its opponent's. The Commission then separately interviews the two sides, and pursues whatever points the five members find appropriate.

On this occasion, the Commission rejected Harrington's complaint that the programme was not so much about his civil liberties (as he claimed he had been led to expect) as about the significance of the events for the National Front. It found LWT's interpretation of the story "reasonable."

In respect of the second complaint, the Commission spent a great deal of time on the nature of the deal made between Harrington and the programme. The London Programme maintained that Harrington had made a conditional agreement to be interviewed that he would not be asked about his National Front past. Harrington denied that he made such a condition.

Understandably, given the procedural constraints mentioned earlier, the BBC found itself unable to decide who was telling the truth. Instead of simply saying so, the BBC said it was nonetheless "unfair" not to have given Harrington the chance to answer an allegation made by another interviewee - that he had been "praised" by the programme as a "Nazi Brownshirt leader."

This finding lends itself to only three interpretations. At its simplest, it could be a "polite" way of saying the BBC believed Harrington - if so, it should have said so out loud. (It has said such things in the past.) It could mean that we should somehow have forced Harrington to sit and answer a question we had mutually agreed would not be asked - an odd way of treating people fairly.

Bargaining about interviews is standard television practice. It can be seen that prospective complainants - or anyone else - are going to be helped if television teams are encouraged to unstick agreements honourably entered into.

Worse of all, this finding could mean that the "Strasser" comment should not have been included in the programme, since we knew Harrington would not answer it. That would mean an unprecedented power of veto to all interviewees.

Fortunately, whichever of these is the right interpretation, it means that the BBC's sanctions are limited to compulsory publication of its findings. That however is a rather crude piece of rough justice, effectively backing LWT in the first complaint and Harrington in the second.

Far better, surely, for the BBC to persuade television journalists that they could alter their ways for the benefit of all than for it to settle for cheap brownie points with the public.



Illustration by Peter Clarke

... that's what Cannes is about but Peter Fiddick wonders why some independents are there

IT HAD to be done in Cannes - where else? If you are going to announce the launch of a European rival to Dallas and Dynasty, a "fast-moving, glamorous international serial" much of its action set in "great European cities," and chronicling the tempestuous lives and ruthless ambitions of the executives and key personnel of a multi-national publishing organisation, you do it at Cannes in the week of MIP-TV, the biggest international market-place and deal-brokerage in the television production industry outside the USA.

So last week we found that Impact, the successor to Compact, the mother of all women's magazine soap-operas, and the creation of Hazel Adair - which we have long known was in preparation down at the Limehouse Studios in London's dockland - was going to be just a soap, but a super-soap.

As Limehouse's chief executive, Jeremy Wallington, points out, "Impact will reflect the new Europe - slick, competitive and dynamic, combined with the sophisticated we've had for centuries. We don't have to invent the characters who inhabit the world of Impact. They actually exist here."

And here was Cannes, where people expect you to go to see what's new. There Impact's production triumvirate proclaimed themselves. The producer is British, Susi Bush, and the interior shooting will be done at Limehouse, but the venture is also backed by production companies in France, Germany, and Luxembourg. Their aim is to sell it across Europe, as a counterblast to the Ewings, and beyond that to the world. And the first step is to make a

very expensive noise at MIP-TV, months before shooting an inch of action.

But it struck me to a certain extent as symbolic. Because it is not true that everybody in the business goes to MIP-TV in April. If you are a big TV company you do. But as an independent producer, to do Cannes in style is to make a statement. Others go, because they need to sell a film, or a series, but they buy bucket-shop air-fares and stay out of town. And some do not go at all, because even that much isn't planned for in the overheads.

The distinctions are suddenly more important, because there is a certain romanticism in the air about the health and vitality of the British independent production sector. It is borne partly by the success of Channel 4 in establishing its popularity, a range of its own and a decent measure of what is recognised as "quality." Those who three or four years ago were demanding "Where are all these independent producers going to come from?" are quieter now; clearly, there is creative life outside the network factories.

But this reasonable perception was given a dangerous twist in the run-up to the BBC licence fee decision, with the revelation that the Peat Marwick report on the corporation's efficiency had suggested a continuing comparison be made with the way C4 operates, the particular impli-

cation being that a system of independent producers is more cost-effective than a staff-based one.

This was viewed sceptically by such as Alasdair Milne, director-general of the BBC, who spoke of the difficulty of comparing like with like, but lauded by others, including Phil Redmond, whose Brookside Productions creates and makes C4's Merseybeat soap opera, and John Gau, the ex-BBC man whose incarnation as an independent and leading light of the independent Programme Producers' Association, reveals him as one of the old empire's sternest critics.

Both sides might be right. There is a certain sort of risk-taking, as well as of complacency, more likely to be nurtured by a major organisation. There is a determination to avoid wasteful indulgence, as well as an inability to commit to the medium-term future, that comes from scraping from contract to contract, dependent all the time on finding the next co-production dollar.

And if the complacency and indulgence exist in the big systems, so the day-to-day shortages and inability to build for the future exist in the independent sector. The dangerous romanticism lies in the unwillingness to recognise that in unfavourable conditions significant slices of what could collapse tomorrow.

Brian Wenham, in his effortlessly-superior BBC-man

mode, insists on referring not to "independents" but to "freelancers." It irritates a lot of them immensely but it still hits a nerve. There is a gulf between those who have a real corporate existence and those who tomorrow might just take their talents off to another attractive job - back at the Beeb, maybe, or a nice short-term ITV contract - and leave Oxfamtrail Productions as just a blip on next year's Schedule D.

It is a question of capital, and the chance to create it. The big independents are the ones who have it. Goldeneye, backed by the Pearson publishing empire, Video Arts built from Cleese and Jay's training films, Limehouse with the backing of Wallington, have bravely persuaded to follow from the ashes of Southern Television. Phil Redmond has the Brookside contract and the backing of the BBC. Peter Montagnon's Antelope now has a slice of Maxwell money behind it.

But on one level of analysis, these are precisely the companies which do not have to rely totally on Channel 4 - and in several instances, they don't. They find there is not enough work available from one channel, that margins are tighter than they believe they need, that the decision-making process is too slow to give continuity of development and production. They may still love Jeremy Isaacs dearly, but they look

elsewhere - which means abroad.

But most who went independent are not in that league. They have formed congenial partnerships under exotic names to make the shows their way. They like C4 though not every part of it; they acknowledge they do get a production fee for their company in its contracts, which can help develop the new project. But it does not allow adventure, let alone risk.

A dozen years ago, "independent producer" for television to most of us meant Christopher Nupen, at odds with the BBC, who took his Allegro Films team and made their splendid music films first for Europe. It was admirable, but it was tough. Today, perhaps the equivalent is the group of artists talents at Third Eye - Barrie Gavin, Geoff Hayden, Mike Dibb. But there is an element of chance in the timing, and independents like these, in whatever genre, know that work must be found elsewhere.

Such a better now than it was for Nupen then, the improvement is more in the range of independent production than in the rewards. So the question is whether the BBC should go down the C4 road, any answer must take account of the need to give independents the sort of contract that creates solid though small companies and the sense of responsibility to the future they could have.

As things are, C4 notwithstanding, a sharp downward twist in the economy could leave us with unemployed freelancers just as an upsurge in the energies of BBC or ITV could suck them back into the old folds.

The Red Cross steps into the breach Iain Guest on a move to give journalists front-line protection

Foreign File.....

PEDRO TIVANE, the deputy editor of Noticias, a Mozambican newspaper, was backed to death last year by axe-wielding rebels in the south of the country. It was a mean and brutal attack, but it was one example of the hazards facing working journalists, especially in the Third World.

Throughout Latin America, 156 have died in the last 20 years, and another 54 disappeared. Five provincial

journalists have died in the Philippines in the last year, 63 Iraqis have died covering the Gulf War, and 19 Arabs died in the Lebanon, including the two CBS cameramen recently shot by an Israeli tank.

These figures illustrate clearly that journalism is a hazardous profession, and the better the story the greater the hazard. The issue has been taken up by the International Committee of the Red Cross following a two-day encounter between the Red Cross and media representatives in Vevay last week.

The most concrete idea that emerged was for a round-the-clock hotline which could be

used by journalists to report a colleague missing or goaded. Typically Red Cross officials immediately started lowering expectations. Most harassment against journalists occurs in their own country, while covering riots, repression or investigating organised crime. Governments are under no legal obligation to accept Red Cross services on such internal matters and often don't, yet it is precisely in such situations that a journalist runs most risk.

Nonetheless, it is significant that the organisation has agreed to take up the issue of journalists' safety which has been trapped in ideological impasse for 15 years.

Why has the cautious Red

Cross taken up such a controversy? One answer is that the policy of discretion is beginning to backfire, particularly in the Gulf War where the Government of Iran accused the Red Cross of spying and kicked it out last October.

But the real reason is the fact that only 50 governments have ratified two additional protocols to the Geneva conventions, drawn up in 1977.

In short, Red Cross officials are starting to regret their wary relationship with the press. One way to woo editors, they reckon, would be to show some interest in the plight of the working reporter. In addition, they feel the growing role of journalists is symptomatic of a growing ten-

dency to shoot first and talk later, resulting in a slow, insidious erosion of the principles of humanitarian law.

The question now is whether the organisation can be of practical help to journalists while at the same time steering clear of the ideological controversy.

The first 1977 protocol contains the model of a suggested international ID card for use by journalists covering wars. Red Cross officials insist this is solely to help distinguish the reporter as a non-combatant. But there is little doubt that it could be used to resurrect the scheme for licensing journalists in follow-up meetings under Red Cross auspices.

"An ID card won't protect a journalist from being shot. But it might be useful in cases of arrest," says Kaarle Nordenstreng, the Finnish president of the Prague-based International Organisation of Journalists.

He argues that if journalists were licensed and backed up by an international committee of professionals it might give them the sort of prestige, and hence protection, enjoyed by the Red Cross on the battlefield.

Western media organisations remain as sceptical as ever, and determined to ensure that the Red Cross does not take on the mantle of crippled Unesco.

Posters north of the border, meanwhile, have a more urgent threat. That great torturing shock horror doesn't just apply to owner-occupiers in marginal constituencies, poster sites are clobbered too, but up to 400 per cent. Rates are around 3 per cent of contractors' turnover and the rules say 50 per cent must be paid up even if the victim is appealing against them. The Advertising Association has asked the harassed Scottish Secretary to waive that bit until the appeals are decided.

Peter Fiddick
Media Editor

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE
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68 High Street, Barnet, Herts EN5 5SJ

Tel: 01-449 5189

Closing date for applications: 24th May 1985

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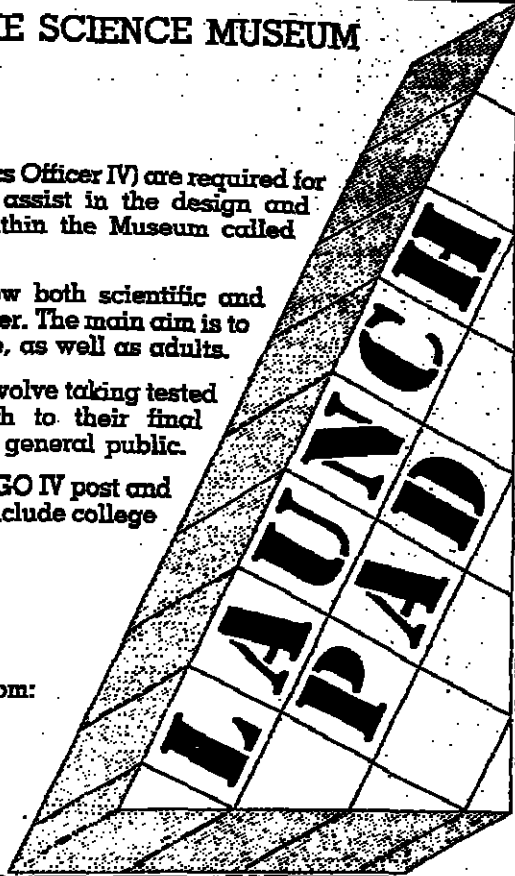
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Application forms and further details are available from:

The Science Museum - Staff Section
South Kensington, London SW7 2DD
Telephone: 01-581 7988

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 17 May 1985.

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM



EASTERN ARTS ASSOCIATION

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We are looking for a person with a lively personality, to develop dance in the Eastern Arts Association. The appointment will be initially for a year, commencing as soon as possible. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development of dance in education and community work. The post is based in Welwyn Garden City, and applicants should send their C.V., together with two references, to the:

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Civic Centre
Welwyn Garden City
Herts AL9 6EX

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Market Research in the Film Industry

An opportunity has arisen within THORN EMI Screen Entertainment for a Market Research Assistant to join the Research and Planning Department. The Company is engaged in film production, worldwide film distribution including video and cable, and cinematic exhibition in the UK. Based in Central London and working closely with the Planning Manager, the jobholder will be involved in all aspects of the film industry, providing a reliable computerised database for the strategic planning of a diverse entertainment business.

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Applications with c.v. to:

Bob Bateman, Art Director

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Terms and conditions of service are in keeping with modern practice including 25 days annual plus statutory holidays and a contributory pension scheme with life cover.

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Mrs Roberts.

DIRECTOR

Local dynamic and experienced person to direct policy, strategy and operations. Salary £25,000-£35,000 p.a. Closing date: 15 May 1985. Details from: Mr. J. H. Jones, Director, Local Authorities Association, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0AL.

HUMBERSIDE COLLEGE

of Higher Education

Senior Technician Learning Resources

£6,555-£8,262

A Senior Technician is required in the Library and Learning Resources Service. The postholder will join a team of technicians providing services to support teaching and learning activities, including responsibility for the day-to-day operation of a sound and video studio plus associated equipment and facilities.

Applicants must have a relevant high level technical qualification and experience of all aspects of sound and video recording.

Application forms and job description from: The Personnel Office, Humberside College of Higher Education, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7TT. Tel: (0482) 446006.

Closing date: 13.5.85.

GRAPHICS TEAM LEADER

We are looking for a talented magazine designer to lead a small graphics team responsible for editorial page and cover design of our range of ten monthly semi-technical hobby interest magazines.

We need someone with experience of running a design studio, who, together with his team, can work directly with editors to achieve the design and layout of a page and keep it coming.

If you think this sounds like you, come and talk to us soon. Write to:

Tony Downes, ASP, Argus Specialist, Publications Ltd, P.O. Box 35, Wokingham, Wokingham, Hants. HP2 4BS

ASP

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ilea Inner London Education Authority

Learning Resources Branch, Television Publishing Centre, Thackeray Rd, London SW8.

Designer in education publishing

Salary range £5,904 to £8,871 plus £1,615 London Weighting Allowance

We are looking for an experienced, versatile and professionally able designer who can solve problems imaginatively and work both on their own and with teachers as an integral part of a team producing varied educational materials. Closing date for completed application forms is 17 May 1985.

Mobile Video Recording Section - Secretary/Technician

The Mobile Video Recording Section at Learning Resources Branch makes and packages observational recordings of learning and teaching situations in schools and colleges for use in television studios. Based mainly at the centre, personal assistance to the Section Head and technical contributions will be required, necessitating travel and, on occasions, irregular hours. Training will be given in the handling of a variety of equipment and in storage and retrieval of software.

Salary range £5,904 to £8,871 plus £1,615 London Weighting Allowance and an irregular hours allowance £225. The closing date for completed application forms is 13 May 1985.

Marketing and Publicity Section

An appropriately experienced person is required to join a small but important team dealing with a wide range of marketing and publicity matters. The successful candidate will provide professional support across the whole range of the Branch's marketing and publicity requirements with special emphasis on liaison with agencies within and outside the Authority, copyright and educational publishing generally.

Salary range £5,904 to £8,871 plus £1,615 London Weighting Allowance. The closing date for completed application forms is 28 May 1985.

Full job descriptions and application forms are available from ECU/Estab 18, Room 365, The County Hall, London SE1 7PS. Please enclose S.A.E. There are no suitable job offers.

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BBC Opportunities for Technically-minded young people

For those interested in the technology of broadcasting the BBC can offer unrivalled prospects.

This year a number of vacancies exist for young people to train as Engineers working throughout the UK. In order for an application to be successful you will need to possess good 'O' Level passes in English, Maths and Physics and to have studied to examination standard in A Level Maths and Physics. Alternatively we will consider TEC Diplomas in a suitable Electronics-based subject.

Successful applicants will also have a strong practical proven interest in a relevant subject such as Hi-Fi, amateur electronics or home video.

In addition there are a limited number of vacancies in our Operational Department for Camera Operators and Audio Assistants; here above all, your interests will be of sufficient depth to discuss technicalities of photography and sound. A good standard of literacy and numeracy will be required and typically will include 'O' Level passes in English, Maths and Physics. As all posts are in Operational areas a minimum age of 18 is necessary plus normal hearing and colour vision.

For further details and application form please write to The Engineering Recruitment Officer, BBC, Broadcasting House, P.O. Box 28L, London W1A 2BL, quoting reference no. 85.E.4022/G and enclosing an s.a.e. measuring at least 9" x 5".

We are an equal opportunities employer.

A SENIOR ROLE IN LEISURE MANAGEMENT

£20,556 - £22,608p.a.

Chelmsford, which comprises the County Town of Essex together with an attractive rural area, is conveniently situated for London and the coast.

The Council is seeking an experienced manager capable of making a significant contribution to the development of the Borough as a major centre for recreation and leisure within the Eastern Region and to serve an expanding population which is expected to rise from 143,000 to 160,000 over the next few years.

The person appointed Recreation Manager will head a new department employing 111 full time employees responsible for:- the Civic and Studio theatres, a multi purpose entertainment hall, the museum, two indoor sports centres and over 1,000 acres of open space and riverside walks. There is a library agency.

A major new £6m. leisure complex is being built incorporating an ice rink, sports hall and other facilities. The provision of museum extensions, an art gallery and a golf course is under active consideration.

Applicants should have direct experience of a number of the disciplines involved, including entertainment and the arts, probably gained in a local government environment. Managerial ability is essential as well as an imaginative approach.

Car allowance £1,410, generous relocation scheme, temporary housing. Further information from the personnel Officer, Civic Centre, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1JE (Tel: 0245 267333). Applications with full c.v. by the 11th May 1985.

Please quote reference: G/CBC



CHELMSFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

New Magazine for China

Business Press International, the world's largest publisher of trade and technical titles, has entered into a joint-venture with the leading publishing Company in China to launch a series of titles.

The first title, to be launched in October 1985 is aimed at China's huge and rapidly expanding energy business - potentially the world's largest growth area. Exciting opportunities now exist to be part of this unique new venture and we now require:-

Advertisement Manager

The successful applicant will be required to launch and build the title into the international success that is its potential. Applicants for this demanding and rewarding position should be able to display the ability to prepare and present a sophisticated sales story, have the management abilities to motivate sales personnel and overseas agents, and contribute to the overall on-going development of the title.

Previous international experience, although not essential, would be an asset. A proven sales record a prerequisite.

The salaries will be commensurate with the positions, plus commission and company car.

To apply, please write enclosing a curriculum vitae or telephone Barry Chelms, Regional Manager - China, Reed Business Publishing Developments, Times House, Throby Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AR Tel: 01-661 8771.

Business Press International is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Display Sales Executive

This is a superb opportunity to work in a launch team where the successful applicant will need to build up the client base and develop those accounts for on-going business.

Initially, the Sales Executive will operate in the UK, however, he/she should expect to obtain an overseas territory in the short term which will broaden the successful candidate's international expertise considerably.

Applicants should display a high level of sales ability and self motivation in order to be worthy of this position.

The salaries will be commensurate with the positions, plus commission and company car.

To apply, please write enclosing a curriculum vitae or telephone Barry Chelms, Regional Manager - China, Reed Business Publishing Developments, Times House, Throby Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AR Tel: 01-661 8771.

Business Press International is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

BUSINESS PRESS INTERNATIONAL



Start a successful career in selling

International Thomson Publishing Ltd. is making a considerable investment in its High Technology Group. Last year we launched Communications ahead of all competition and New Electronics was awarded "the best trade relaunch of 1984".

We have just relaunched Broadcast, the most established and respected journal for the broadcast industry, which now incorporates Television Weekly.

Now we need two Telesales Canvassers to join a successful team working in this exciting, expanding industry. You should be keen to work hard in a competitive environment and be confident in your abilities to persuade and communicate clearly. Experience is not essential as full training will be given. Excellent salary plus a generous commission scheme. L.V.s. and four weeks' holiday rising to five weeks after your first year.

You can call John Kuschner on 01-333 4878 from 9 a.m. to discuss the start of a successful career in a leading publishing company.



IF THIS ADVERTISING SPACE WAS FOR SALE COULD YOU SELL IT?

We are a friendly and highly motivated team who are extremely successful. We need one more Telephone Sales Canvasser to help us break more records in 1985.

If you get the job you'll find yourself working in a brand new, purpose-designed sales office, using all the latest equipment. We work a nine-day fortnight. You will receive a basic salary of over £8,000 and the opportunity to earn more than £2,000 in bonuses on top of that.

The people we hire will be between the ages of 21-27, bright, articulate, and fast thinking; previous sales experience is essential although the type of selling you have been involved in is not important. If you recognise yourself ring Jan Small between 10 am and 4 pm and persuade her that you are the right person for us.

Jan Small
TELEPHONE SALES MANAGER
01-278 2332
ext 3364
THE GUARDIAN

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE ETHNIC FILM & TELEVISION ADVISER

c. £11,500-£13,800 (under review)

The British Film Institute is a service organisation promoting the art of Film, Video and Television and is concerned with the cultural implications of these areas. The contribution from ethnic minority groups is increasing rapidly and an urgent need exists for a person who is endowed both with a cultural awareness and a practical approach to the problems of ethnic groups. This post is offered on a two year contract and its objectives are to re-orientate and promote initiatives relating to ethnic minorities, internally and externally, and to set up communication channels between the relevant groups. There will also be opportunities to research into the history and development of ethnic film culture. The successful candidate will possess excellent communication skills, fluency with and experience of cultural organisations, knowledge of current racial legislation at all levels, and the ability and enthusiasm to initiate a project of this importance.

Further details and an application form are available from Personnel Department, 127 Charing Cross Road, London WC2R 3BA. Tel: 01-477 4285. Closing date: 15th May 1985. WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

City of Newcastle upon Tyne Education Committee College of Arts and Technology School of Art and Design

Applications are invited for appointment to a senior position within the School of Art and Design, the appointment being at PRINCIPAL LECTURER level.

The Principal seeks a well qualified and experienced person from the area of Three Dimensional/Spatial Design to support and enhance the provision of teaching and subject within the College. A prime responsibility will be to assist in the academic development of courses and staffing at all levels and modes within the School of Art and Design.

We welcome applications from both the design professions and the design teaching areas. SALARY SCALE: £13,095-£14,580. Application Forms and further particulars are available from the Personnel Office, College of Arts and Technology, Maple Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7BA, to be returned by 15 May 1985.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON ASSISTANT SERVICES OFFICER

(Publications, Printing and Central Records)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of Assistant Services Officer to be responsible for Publications, Printing Services and Central Records. Candidates will be expected to have a background of editorial, publication, printing and related administrative and staff management experience, demonstrate an ability to develop these activities in line with technological advances and be able to communicate with all levels of staff. Salary scale £11,075-£14,925 p.a. + £1,250 p.a. LA.

Applicants (see forms) including full c.v. and names and addresses of two referees to: Assistant Secretary (Personnel), University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Closing date: 13th May 1985. This is a re-advertisement and previous applicants need not re-apply.

CLWYD COUNTY COUNCIL Library and Museum Service CURATOR

Salary Scale 5

£7,524-£9,262 per annum

The post of Curator at the Barmham Industrial Heritage Centre near Wrexham in North Wales will become vacant from 1st June, 1985. Applications are invited from persons suitably qualified and experienced in the field of social/industrial history.

Application forms and further details obtainable from the County Personnel and Management Services Officer, Shire Hall, Mold, Chyrdd, (Tel: 01223 52224), to be returned by 22nd May.

J. A. DAVIES
County Personnel and Management Services Officer

Finance in the Arts

Officers in the Finance Department work closely with the Council's specialist art form officers in assessing the financial requirements of a wide range of clients (both organisations and individuals) using reports, financial data and personal contact. They are also responsible for processing the agreed payments.

We are seeking to fill two posts both reporting to Subsidy Officers who head teams dealing with particular art forms:

Assistant Subsidy Officer (Music)

Applicants must have substantial administrative experience and be used to dealing with financial information. They should also be used to dealing sensitively with people and have a knowledge of, and ideally experience in, arts management, particularly music.

Salary according to experience but on a scale £7,898-£9,792 pa (under review).

Subsidy Assistant (Drama and Literature)

Applicants should have basic clerical skills, be used to working with figures and able to draft correspondence. They should also be used to working with the minimum of supervision. An interest in the arts, especially drama and literature, would be an advantage.

Salary according to experience but on a scale £5,882-£7,293 pa (under review).

Both postholders will be expected to operate a computer terminal as part of their jobs and training will be provided if necessary.

For an application form and job description, please contact Personnel, 105 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AU. Tel: 01-629 5485, Ext. 266. Closing date for receipt of applications: 13th May, 1985.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



In 1984 the National Book League selected five schoolbooks for inclusion in their annual exhibition of books chosen for excellence in design and production. Three of the five were published by Longman.

Longman Group, leading educational publishers, now wish to recruit additional Designers. They will join the team working on their English Language Teaching, Reference and Trade Lists.

DEPUTY DESIGN MANAGER

Managerial ability and a wide range of design skills will be required. The Deputy Design Manager will be fully responsible for the work of a team of in-house and freelance designers and illustrators, as well as for his/her own design projects. Candidates should have a BA Degree in Graphic Design (or equivalent) and at least three years' experience in book design. Ref: L122.

SENIOR DESIGNER

Considerable experience in book design including complex full colour work will be required. The Senior Designer will be fully responsible for a wide variety of design projects. The job will include commissioning freelance designers and illustrators. Candidates should have a BA Degree in Graphic Design (or equivalent) and at least three years' experience in book design. Ref: L123.

If you are interested in one of these vacancies please write (quoting the appropriate reference), enclosing a full CV and stating current salary to:

Fiona Baker, Personnel Executive, Longman Group, Longman House, Burnt Mill, Harlow, Essex CM20 1JE.

Longman

SOUTHERN AREA SALES MANAGER

Macmillan Education requires a Southern Area Sales Manager for its School Book Division.

The territory to be covered stretches from South Wales to the Thames Estuary, and the successful applicant must be prepared to travel this area regularly, hence residence centrally in the territory would be desirable.

Candidates, who ideally will be between 25 and 40, should be capable of effective selling into schools and also of managing a small team of freelance representatives. Experience of educational selling, whilst desirable, is not essential, but the applicant must be energetic, well organised, and capable of self-motivation. A clean driving licence is essential.

The position offers a competitive salary and a company car.

Please apply with full cv to:

Sheilagh Browne, Personnel Manager
MACMILLAN EDUCATION LTD.
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2XS
Closing date for applications: 13th May, 1985



Oxford University Press

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

We are looking for a capable graphic designer to join our team producing a highly visual range of books for schools and children. We need someone with at least two years relevant experience, who combines a keen eye for typographic detail with a strong sense of graphics. The work involves close collaboration with editorial and production staff throughout the design process and therefore a willingness to work as part of a creative team is essential.

Salary in the range £6,205-£10,125 depending on experience.

Applications in writing with full c.v. to: Sue Johnson, Personnel Department, Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford.

MANTIS DANCE COMPANY

needs an experienced

PRESS & PUBLICITY OFFICER

to take full responsibility for press relations and marketing and to assist with sponsorship and promotion. To start as soon as possible.

Mantis is a revenue-funded contemporary dance company touring mainly to middle-scale theatres throughout Britain and abroad. Salary £9,000. Closing date: 24th May, 1985. Please apply in writing with cv. to: Mantis, Dance Umbrella, 38 Harrington Road, London SW7 3RD.

TECHNICAL WRITER

SOC/AN TECHNICAL SERVICES SUPPORT SECTION - HIGH STREET KENSINGTON - WEST LONDON

We are looking for a bright adaptable person with technical writing experience who is able to work as part of a team and interpret our work for non-specialist readers. Some knowledge of computing would be an advantage. British Telecom is one of the largest corporate users of office based Small Business Computers in Europe and we provide technical support for these users.

The successful applicant will join a team of experts who provide computer systems and develop software products. You will need an understanding of the products and an appreciation of the information needed by end users, and how to present it. The work involves responsibility for the preparation of user manuals, brochures and "Which" style reports based on technical documentation produced within the section.

The post offers an interesting future with one of the world's largest telecommunications companies. The starting salary will be up to £12,900.

To find out more about the job, send your application with a resume of your experience to Mrs M Thucydides, Room 8110, Tenter House, 45 Moorfields, London EC2Y 9TH or contact her on 01-432 8242.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and will receive early replies.

British
TELECOM

HERALDING A NEW ERA...

Publicity Officer

External Relations Unit.....up to £14,925 (under review)

Aston University is one of the country's leading technological Universities. Building upon an already considerable record of sustained achievement, we're now developing new initiatives in teaching, scholarship and research, and need a first class Publicity Officer who can communicate these to external audiences and the University community.

Reporting to the Director of University Relations, the successful candidate will ensure the smooth running of the Information Office. The primary task is to assess the University's central and departmental public relations needs, to design a strategy to meet these and then to carry this strategy through. The range of responsibilities will reflect the experience of the postholder, but will certainly include developing links with the national and local media, mounting exhibitions and other public events, as well as co-ordinating all the University's PR operations. Producing the University News Sheet 'Aston Fortnight' and assisting in the production of University

publications and departmental literature will also fall under your jurisdiction.

Naturally, the post demands someone with exceptional communication skills and organisational ability. Probably a graduate, with good experience of working in a University. A knowledge of handling relations with the media and running on-line news sheet and in-house publications would be extremely advantageous. Whilst endless enthusiasm, energy, and a store of new ideas are a must.

The post is for 3 years but the possibility of a continuing appointment exists for an outstanding candidate.

If you have the qualities this post requires, then please write to or telephone Keith Thomas, Senior Personnel Officer, Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham B4 7ET (tel: 021-359 3611 ext. 4568) quoting Ref. 85/210G. In addition, informal enquiries may be made to Veronica Warner on ext. 4823.

ASTON UNIVERSITY

A SENIOR EDITOR WITH STYLE

A thoroughly experienced journalist wanted to edit a demanding high profile specialist newspaper. Must have ability to write news and features, sub, lead a team and relate well to people. Layout and production skills an advantage.

Salary package of interest to those currently earning around \$2,000+ and includes contributory pension and private health schemes.

Apply in writing to:
Barbara Burrows, Editorial Director

AGB

COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED
Clerks Court, 18-20 Farringdon Lane,
London EC1R 3AU

Features Editor The Engineer

Britain's leading weekly magazine for engineering management is to appoint a Features Editor to co-ordinate and plan features coverage across industries as diverse as micro-electronics and offshore construction.

This is a new post, responsible to the Editor. It will involve commissioning topical and relevant feature material from THE ENGINEER'S team of specialist writers and from outside contributors and the preparation of THE ENGINEER'S programme of special reports.

The successful applicant is likely to be a senior journalist with a sound and wide-ranging knowledge of engineering industry. Proven writing ability and the enthusiasm to generate new ideas are essential. THE ENGINEER has achieved a national reputation for the clarity and topicality of its business and technology features. THE ENGINEER is part of the thriving Morgan-Grampian Group of business and industrial magazines, and is based in modern offices in South East London. The pay and conditions will reflect the importance of this post in the development of THE ENGINEER.

If you think you can fill this challenging job, write to the Editor of THE ENGINEER, John Pullin at 30 Calderwood Street, London SE18 6QH, or telephone him on 01-855 7777.

The Company is an equal opportunities employer

COURSES

3-MONTH INTENSIVE COURSES IN: ADVANCED TV/POST PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES

Inc. multi-machine video editing, digital special video effects, computerised VTRs, digital video and introduction to satellite/cable TV

The course prepares for lucrative employment in television. Courses commence 6th May and 30th September 1985.

MEDIA PRODUCTION SERVICES

228-244 King Street, London W6

Tel: 01-737 7152 (studio)

01-602 6568 (office)

VIDEO PRODUCTION COURSES

3 June - 7 June '85 5 Aug - 9 Aug '85 12 Aug - 16 Aug '85

Four day Video Programme Production Course, inclusive of Full Board and Accommodation. Fully staffed Professional Studio. Further courses in October

£245

For Full Details: Lincolnshire Educational Television,

Blithfold, Great Ouse Valley, LINCOLN LN30 3YU

Tel: 0522 44406; 0522 27047, Ext. 721.

U-MATIC VIDEO COURSES

4-day courses (and only 4 people per course) in Camerawork, Recording, Lighting, Sound and Editing.

MAY - Tues, 28-Fri, 31

JUNE - Tues, 28-Fri, 30

£195 (plus VAT). Courses always fully booked so don't delay. Write or phone for details.

MEDIA PRODUCTIONS (EDUCATION)

22 Buryway Lane

Chesham, Bucks HP8 3SD

Tel: 01-455 6477

FILM-MAKING & VIDEO TELEVISION PRODUCTION

SHORT COURSES

Comprehensive Programmes in Professional Film & Video TV Production Techniques

1 WEEK FILM COURSE

23 JUNE-29 JUNE

3 WEEKS FILM COURSE

23 JUNE-12 JULY

1 WEEK VIDEO COURSE

2 JUNE-7 JUNE

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In not more than a thousand words describe how this job in IBM is so special.

You could? Brilliant.

You see, there isn't really a title we can give to the person we're looking for. 'Communications Specialist' perhaps. Or 'Publications Co-ordinator'. The words, though, lack weight.

Let us just say that you'll be responsible for a wide range of IBM publications. From the Annual Review (just about the single most important publication within the organisation) to a variety of top-quality brochures and promotional material.

Needless to say, the job is very high-profile indeed. You'll be operating throughout the IBM organisation, travelling up and down the country, working closely with IBM employees at every level.

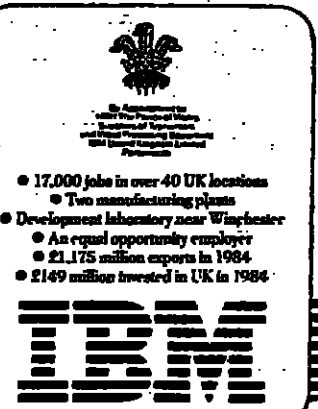
By background, you'll be a talented writer, with experience of editing. Also, you'll have an eye for design. You'll know how and whom to commission for photography and freelance writing (within precise budgets). You'll have a keen business sense and, hopefully, already be familiar with the computer industry.

Basically you'll have a track record that is impressive. Maybe you hail from a journalistic background, certainly you have a degree. Ideally, you're in your early thirties.

A tall order? It's a big job.

Write to or phone for an application form: Valerie Wits, IBM United Kingdom Limited, PO Box 41, North Harbour, Portsmouth, Hants PO6 3AU. Tel: Portsmouth (0705) 321212 extension.

Please quote ref: G/13703



- 17,000 jobs in over 40 UK locations
- Two manufacturing plants
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- An equal opportunity employer
- £2.175 million exports in 1984
- £149 million invested in UK in 1984

Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, a major firm of Chartered Surveyors and International Real Estate Consultants, wishes to make the following appointment:-

Senior Property Researcher

Experienced senior property researcher, with cognate university qualifications and a demonstrable ability to write well, required to continue established research work in expanding department.

The successful candidate will play a major part in carrying out a combination of client requested research projects as well as increasing the firm's research-based publications.

The position, based in our West End office, will carry a competitive salary commensurate with experience, together with normal fringe benefits associated with a major Practice.

Applications in confidence, by letter, should be sent with a CV to:- Peter Evans, Head of Research

DEBENHAM TEWSON & CHINNOCKS

Chartered Surveyors
43 Brook Street, London W1V 1TB
01-408 1161

BOURNMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & BOURNMOUTH SINFONETTA requires a

CONCERT PROMOTIONS OFFICER

You will need plenty of energy and a real commitment to classical music to meet the challenge of this key role in the Marketing and Publicity operation of the Bournemouth Orchestras.

As number three in a team of four, you will administer an extensive mailing service and the ordering of printed publicity and tickets. You will supply and develop opportunities for publicity display, visiting concert venues where necessary to build contacts. Organisation of Front-of-House and ticket sales arrangements, also fall within the brief. Car ownership would be an advantage.

Salary £5,500, contributory pension scheme.

If you have at least one year's experience in Arts Marketing, and would like to develop your career with two of Britain's finest Orchestras, please write with full cv to:

Director of Administration
WESTERN ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY LIMITED
2 Saldown Lane, Poole, Dorset BH15 1UF

Judy Farquharson Limited

47 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HA. 01-493 8824

CREATIVE WRITER

To join public affairs department of major international company. Take responsibility for development, design, writing and production of corporate advertising, publications and communications programmes.

Candidates should be graduates with about five years experience in newspaper/magazine journalism or PR related activity. Age mid 20's, salary to £15,000.

EDITOR/WRITER

Required for a monthly in-house newspaper. The successful candidate will have flair, energy, a keen commercial sense and will be prepared to travel in the UK and possibly abroad. We are keen to interview applicants with a local newspaper and industrial experience and a sound knowledge of subbing and layout. Salary £12,000.

JFL

TRANSLATORS

based in the Home Counties and with perfect, fluent Norwegian / Finnish / German or Spanish. Accounting / Computing knowledge essential. Fixed term contracts. Also:

EDITOR

with similar skills for Spanish project.

Apply in person to: Mrs. N. A. Todd, 8 T & B Ltd., Ipswich, Longdene Road, Haslemere, Surrey. Tel: (0428) 53415.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE

Sadler's Wells is to appoint a

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

to work directly with the Development Controller. Stimulating new post involving close attention to detail and background of the Development Appeal. Previous experience in financial institutions an asset, knowledge of ballet and theatre useful but not essential. Ability to deal with people, keep records, type accurately and imaginatively, and to work closely with small team of dedicated people is essential.

Full job description and other details available from: Administrator, Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4TH. Tel: 01-270 6553.

Sadler's Wells is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

I could be a
Production Assistant... Director...
Writer... Art Buyer... Designer...
if I read 'Creative and Media'
jobs in The Guardian
every Monday

YOU CAN FIND IT IN THE
GUARDIAN



DESIGN ASSISTANT BBC INFORMATION

Central London £7,271 - £8,729

We are looking for a Designer to join a busy creative team promoting BBC programmes and policies through a wide range of printed material, including leaflets, brochures, posters and displays. Applicants should have a degree in Graphic Design or equivalent, at least 2 years' relevant studio experience, sound typographic ability and a full understanding of print specification. (Ref. 2460/G)



SENIOR PICTURE RESEARCHER

Central London £8,729 - £10,582

A rare opportunity has arisen for an experienced Picture Researcher to join the team responsible for a wide range of publications which complement the BBC's Radio and Television output. The successful candidate will be responsible for a team of Picture Researchers who service Educational Publications and General books. Duties include the briefing, finding and researching of photographic and archive material, commissioning photography, budgetary control, and copyright clearance. We are looking for someone with a lively, well trained mind, a high level of communication skills, and a ready knowledge of unusual picture and archive sources worldwide. Previous experience of running a picture research department is desirable as is a technical knowledge of photography, printing processes and copyright law. Completed application forms must be returned by Thursday, 9th May. (Ref. 2463/G)

We are an equal opportunities employer

ASSISTANT FILM EDITOR

Birmingham £6,241 - £8,761

To assist Film Editors in all matters relating to film and PSC editing. This includes material for opt-out programmes for the network news and current affairs programmes. Candidates should have experience in handling all types of film in professional cutting rooms and a knowledge of the principles of cinematography. They should also have an interest in electronic editing and the capacity to develop a professional approach to film work. Normal colour vision is also essential. (Ref. 1372/G)



ASSISTANT ART EDITOR

Central London £11,982 - £14,504

To be responsible for the planning and commissioning of artwork for Radio Times feature and programme pages. Education to degree standard in Graphic Design or equivalent experience, preferably in an editorial capacity on a newspaper or magazine of national standing, is essential. Previous experience in the supervision of staff, the administration of budgets and of commissioning artists and photographers would be an advantage. (Ref. 2435/G)

Salaries currently under review. Relocation expenses considered.

Contact us immediately for application form (quote appropriate ref. and enclose s.a.e.): BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-927 5799.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT Promotions & Community Relations Unit

Two Press and Information Officers

(SO1) - £9,477-£10,107

The City of Birmingham is expanding its promotional activities and has recently strengthened its Press Office. We are seeking two creative and energetic Press and Information Officers to join a team of eight.

Major duties will include writing and editing copy for internal and external publication, preparing press releases, liaising with the media. Experience of creative writing is essential as is experience in a similar role.

Candidates may obtain application forms (returnable by 16 May 1985) and further particulars from Personnel Section, Chief Executive's Department, Council House, Birmingham, B1 1BB.

Quote ref: 13/615.

Canvassing will disqualify.

An Equal Opportunities Employer.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

TOWN CLERK'S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION

Publications Officer

[PO1 (£10,716/£11,562)]

The Publications, Promotions and Design Unit provides a comprehensive service for all City Council departments on matters relating to exhibitions, publications, audio-visual presentations, promotional campaigns, conferences and special events. It also advises on a wide range of publicity and promotional issues and provides a complete creative design service.

The ideal candidate for this post will have had experience in all of these fields and will be able to supervise the work of the Graphic Designers and the Exhibitions and Audio-Visual Unit. The successful applicant will, however, be expected to devote a considerable amount of time to devising and organising various promotional events.

The structure of the Public Relations Section is at present under review and it is possible that as a result of that review, there will be a revised management structure for the Unit and that the precise duties of this post may be varied.

Applications, by letter, giving all relevant particulars, together with the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to the Staff Officer, Town Clerk's Department, PO Box 532, Town Hall, Manchester M60 2LA, to be received not later than 13th May, 1985.

The City Council operates a Union Membership agreement under which a new employee is required to become a member of a recognised Union.

MANCHESTER City Council

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and we positively welcome applications from women and men, regardless of their race, ethnic or national origin, disability, age, sexuality or responsibilities for dependants.

AUSTRALIANS GO HOME

- Because if you do there is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be in the beginning when a new high quality weekly newspaper is launched for the burgeoning Australian computer industry
- Starting July there are vacancies for top quality reporters in both Sydney and Melbourne. The brief is to write excitingly and interestingly about the computer business and the wider implications of technology
- The task should appeal to fairly experienced journalists, who, when they return home, can see the appeal of covering what is rapidly becoming a major industry in Australia
- Interested? Then write a longish and articulate letter to George Littlejohn, VNU Business Publications, 62, Oxford Street, London W1A 2EG.

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT

Amazing career opportunity with the U.K.'s fastest growing magazine publishing company.

Would you enjoy working to tight schedules and would you revel in being a key member in a dynamic advertising environment? Good organisation, fast accurate typing and the ability to show initiative is essential, as well as liaising with clients and major advertising agencies. Experience not necessary but helpful.

We are a young Company and offer an attractive salary - neg. 5 weeks' paid holiday. Lunchtime Vouchers, and all the benefits of a large successful public company. Excellent opportunity for a person with a career in mind.

Contact John Peggall now on 01-430 1220.

emap

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

For small, busy editorial / design / print production team in travel business. Trainee or some experience. English "A" level or degree; fast, accurate typing essential. Apply in writing, with CV, to Aviation Marketing Services, 38 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0ES.

SCOTTISH AND NORTHERN BOOK DISTRIBUTION CO-OPERATIVE LTD

16 Granby Row
Manchester M1 3SE
061-228 3803

need TWO WORKERS for our Manchester office. We are a collectively-run workers' co-op representing and distributing a wide range of radical publications. The salary for 4 days per week is approx. £74.00 net. We welcome applications from black women and men. Contact us for a job description, and reply by 7th May 1985.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
LONDON 01-278 2332
MANCHESTER 061-832 7200

Summer Jobs Abroad

FRENCH, GERMAN AND SPANISH SPEAKING
French speaking young people invited to work immediately on European camp sites as REPRESENTATIVES for the United Kingdom's leading Camping and Caravanning Club. For an application form please telephone: Centre Department on 0800 000 452.

Eurocamp

Banking Technology, Commodore Horizons, Popular Computing Weekly and Satellite Technology

SCOT PRESS LIMITED

SALES CAREER IN ADVERTISING

Scot Press is looking for display and classified advertising staff to join the teams on its weekly and monthly magazines. Advertising sales experience is a distinct advantage. Salary of £7,500 plus generous commission scheme. Please write with full cv to:

Duncan Scot
12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2H 7PP
or ring 01-437 4343
(No agencies please)

Assistant Editor

Builders & Timber Merchant, the UK merchant trade's leading publication, has a requirement for an Assistant Editor. You will be mainly responsible for ensuring that the production of the magazine is handled efficiently and will need all-round experience of reporting, subbing, layout, picture work and liaising with suppliers.

To succeed you must be self-motivated, mature and flexible with the ability to handle news, feature and product pages to tight deadlines.

This is an ideal opportunity to become very involved in a small editorial team.

This leading specialist business publisher is offering an attractive salary and appropriate large company benefits including contributory pension scheme, subsidised catering and pleasant working conditions in Tonbridge, Kent.

If this is for you, please write with full cv to Geoffrey Smith, Personnel Manager.

Benn Publications Limited
Sovereign Way, Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1RW

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

for a West London business and professional publisher, to be responsible to the Head of Marketing for specific sections of their list, which comprises looseleaf and bound books.

Candidates should have:

1. A background in direct marketing and promotion, not necessarily in the book world.
2. Some experience of print and design-buying.
3. An imaginative approach to marketing problems and possibilities.

A. Numeracy and practical efficiency.
Age range: c. 25-35. Salary: negotiable c. £10-£11k plus bonus and the usual benefits.
Please write with cv or telephone to Roger Stacey or Deborah Riea at:

ASTRON APPOINTMENTS LIMITED
(Recruitment Consultants)
20-24 Uxbridge Street, London W8 7TA
Tel: 01-229 6423/9171.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Bright, literate, willing... This is an excellent opportunity for a person, preferably working in a similar capacity, to join an exciting company publishing magazines in the beauty and leisure area. The successful candidate will be required to work on a number of publications and will need to possess proven written skills as well as practical experience of proof reading and subbing. She will be working closely with two Editors in a busy office, and will be required to deputise at press functions as well as carry out a wide range of administrative duties including picture research.

Applications in writing, enclosing a full CV, stating current salary, to: Patricia Welch, Editor, JWP Services Ltd., Newcombe House, Notting Hill Gate, W11 3LD.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Salary £5,500 - £8,500

We are seeking an intelligent and versatile person to undertake a range of marketing activities, including sales, advertising, publications and information / exhibition work. The post would suit a recent graduate interested in developing an independent role in an expanding young company. Relevant work experience an advantage.

For further particulars and application form, telephone 01-235 3494, or write to: The Marketing Director, Denton Computers Ltd., 71 Lonsdale Road, London W8 6DS.

deniron

HUMBERSIDE COLLEGE

Not Higher Education

School of Visual Communication Design

Lecturer II/ Senior Lecturer

MUSEUM DESIGN

Applications are invited for the above key post from persons with recent experience of museum design, and experience in aspects of design management, conservation and security. Teaching is at diploma/higher diploma level.

U167 548-512,099
SL £11,175-£13,128
(Grp)-£14,061

Application forms and details from: The Personnel Office, Humberside College of Higher Education, Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RT. Tel: (0482) 446506. Closing date: 17.5.85

CITY OF YORK LEISURE SERVICES

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENTS FIELD OFFICER

Scale 3 (£5,822-£6,420)

This is a newly created post in a progressive Leisure Services Department. Duties will be new and the postholder will have an opportunity to develop and maintain a programme of arts and entertainment activities.

The successful applicant will be suitably qualified by education and experience, and will possess the appropriate personal qualities to work without supervision.

For further details of the post and an application form, please write to: Mrs D. Prosser, Leisure Services Department, The Red House, Doncaster Place, York, or telephone York 01904 ext. 291.

The closing date for applications will be 24th May 1985.

NOTTINGHAM FILM THEATRE

CO-ORDINATOR

This new part-time post, initially for a period of one year, is to draw together the activities of the theatre, with special responsibility for programming and development.

Salary on scale £4,288-£4,557.

For details/application form, contact Graham Nicholls, Nottingham Film Theatre, 16 Broad Street, Nottingham NG1 3AL. Closing date May 15.

adventure

Looking after overseas clients and their social and business schedules from arranging departure, arrival, travel and similar on ground. Ideal job for someone with a flair for organisation. Ring 01-235 3494.

PERSONNEL c £8,500
MAJOR HIGH TECH COMPANY

A young secretary, shorthand or scribe, is required to work in the Personnel Department of a leading company in the High Technology field. Flexibility is the key factor for this varied and busy assignment involving tasks of administration as well as secretarial back-up to the Personnel team. Word Processing experience on one of the major systems would be a distinct advantage. The hourly rate yields an annual salary in excess of £8,500 per annum. Please call Jonathan Cole on 01-457 6514 for more information.

Thames Enterprises Recruitment Consultants

THE CITY UNIVERSITY
SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT
Audio/Wordprocessing experience (Wordstar)
Salary up to £7,692 p.a.

An experienced Secretarial Assistant is required in one of our busy academic departments to provide secretarial and administrative support for:

- a new Diploma Course for Senior Managers in Highways and Transportation;
- the Course Director and the Resource Centre.

Duties will include secretarial support for the Course Director and staff responsible for the diploma course. Typing of correspondence, lecture notes and work relating to the course, both from tapes and handwritten notes. Telephone work and liaison with other university departments. Contact with other personnel, employee and sponsor.

The successful applicant will also be required to provide secretarial/administrative assistance for the Director of the Rehabilitation Resource Centre. Varied duties will include the use of a wordprocessor (WORDSTAR) for the Secretary. Will also be required to manage the Centre's small library collections and classification of books and journals, maintaining records of borrowers' telephone work and liaison with other university departments, outside organisations, staff, students and sponsors, related to the work of the Centre.

Applicants should have a minimum of four years' office experience using audio equipment and be fully conversant with wordprocessing. The person appointed will be expected to work on her own initiative in a friendly, fast moving environment. Previous work with disabled people would be most useful.

Benefits include seven week leave scheme, 37 days' holiday and excellent staff and recreational facilities.

For further details and an application form please write to Mr James Cameron, Personnel Recruitment Assistant, The City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0EL, or telephone 01-250 1107. *Gr4-hour Appointment.*

ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING

**SECRETARIAL
CO-ORDINATOR**

Salary scale £7,720-£8,629 per annum

required to co-ordinate and supervise the work of the Institute of Advanced Nursing Education's secretarial staff and to act as Secretary to the Deputy Director of Education and designated tutors.

Secretarial experience at a senior level, excellent shorthand and typing skills plus the ability to service meetings are essential, together with experience of supervising other secretarial staff. Preference will be given to applicants competent in the use of word processor equipment.

Telephone: Personnel Department, 01-409 3333, Ext. 346.

The RCN actively discourages smoking in all its premises

CMS
CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY
has a vacancy for a
PERSONAL ASSISTANT
for the Communications Secretary, who runs a busy Division which includes publications, information services, library and media. Required are administrative ability, secretarial skills (not shorthand) and a knowledge of committee work, if possible. Also, a sympathy for the aims of the Society.
Salary scale: £6,572-£7,716 plus £276 p.a. London Allowance.
Job description and application form from Judith Thomas, Assistant Personnel Officer, CMS, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8JU. Tel: 01-928 9861.
Closing dates for completed applications May 7th, 1985.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Secretaries

Salaries on scale to: £7,692 p.a. Inc. LV

Required by:

- a) **Professor and Academic Staff of Architecture School** (Shand). Ability to work independently, run departmental office. Plenty of student contact.
- b) **Professor of History and Art** (Shand, Wp) maintenance of student records, preparation of timetables, assistance with departmental Library and photographic work.
- c) **Professor of Phonetics and Linguistics** (Shand) Administration of departmental office; liaison with College of Speech Sciences; running of Summer course in English Phonetics.
- d) **Dean of Medical School** (Shand). Proven ability to organise and use initiative, tact and discretion.

At least three years' office experience. Maturity and flexibility essential.

Salaries on scale to: £6,795 p.a. Inc. LV.

- a) **Professor of Chemical Engineering**, (Typing, Wp) for varied and interesting work, assistance with Departmental Library.
- b) **Leaves Vacant** (Typing, Wp) (2) for busy general office, assistance with organisation of conferences.
- c) **Professor of Pharmacology**, (Typing, Wp). Knowledge of scientific literature useful. Ability to organise work.
- d) **Professor of Physiology**, (Typing, Wp) Pleasant manner in dealing with telephone enquiries, reception duties.

Good standards, 5 "D" levels or equivalent, Inc. English Language. Some office experience preferred. Goodness, honest, dependable. Applications to: Elizabeth Riley, Personnel Officer, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Tel: 01-267 7030, and 208.

WESTMINSTER ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH
Re-Advertisement for

ORGANISING SECRETARY DIRECTOR — New Post

WAMH is looking for someone who can bring energy and organisational flair to a lively and expanding voluntary organisation working to prevent and overcome mental illness in Westminster.

Substantial grants from public and private sources have enabled an active management committee and eight professional staff to consolidate their pioneering housing, education and employment projects and convert a building for a new Mental Health Resource Centre.

We now need someone with proven management, financial and communications skills, a good grasp of mental health issues and experience of the voluntary sector to take overall responsibility for the co-ordination and growth of the association.

Salary PO1 — £10,400 plus to £13,886 plus London Weighting. 26 days' annual leave.

Closing date: 14th May. Interview date: Friday, 24th May

Write or phone for further details and an application form to:

**WAMH
Church House
Newton Road
London W2 5LG
Tel: 01-221 6198/1214**

WAMH is an equal opportunities employer



Temporaries

Not busy enough?

Manpower Temporary Services
could be your answer.
Experienced:

- Word Processor Operators
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needed for immediate long and
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Call today for an appointment.

MANPOWER Tel: 225 0505
TEMPORARY SERVICES 24 hour answering service

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

**EDITORIAL SECRETARY/
ASSISTANT**

We are looking for an enthusiastic Secretary/Assistant for a busy editorial team producing an encyclopaedia and data bank on medicines. Fast accurate typing is essential and experience of W.P. and audio an advantage. As well as the key boarding of manuscripts you would be involved in general office duties and the various editorial tasks required to organise our information. We offer a salary of £6,480-£6,870, together with four weeks' annual holiday. We have a subsidised restaurant and flexible working hours.

This post is vacant now, if you are interested write, giving full details of yourself, to: J. E. F. Reynolds, Editor of *Martindale*, The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.

**ADVERTISING
SECRETARY**
\$9,500
Advertising "know how" and a happy sense of humour are the most important requirements. Lowly agency, hectic and lots of fun!

**MAJOR FILM CO
SECRETARY**
\$2,000+
A capable, admin-minded secretary who is well organized and methodical for this famous Feature Film Production Co.

**AMBITIOUS
PR SECRETARY**
\$7,500
This small rapidly expanding PR Consultancy need a bright young secretary with means of potential to climb the PR ladder!

*"Recruitment Specialists to the
Communications and
Entertainment Industries since
1962."*

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
PA SECRETARY
£6,617-£7,692 (under review)

A personal secretary is required to provide a service to the Senior Officer in charge of Personnel and Administration. This office offers an interesting opportunity to become involved in a wide range of staffing matters relating to both the federal and central institutions of the University.

Besides providing a first-class secretarial service, which includes shorthand or audio and typing, the secretary will be responsible for the circulation, editing and publishing of the weekly University staff vacancy bulletin. This and other matters involves contact with staff at all levels, both within the central offices and also throughout the University.

The salary will be dependent on experience and qualifications and on an incremental scale. Holidays are four weeks a year plus extra leave at Christmas and Easter. A season ticket loan is available, also an excellent pension scheme. There are many social activities including sport and the arts.

For further details and application forms contact the Personnel Office, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU, or telephone 01-636 5006, ext 3223. Closing date: May 12th, 1985.

PA/SECRETARY

PA/Secretary required for our Executive Editor. We are a busy Scientific Technical and Medical publishers based in NW1. Suitable applicants should have good secretarial skills. A good general education is essential as is an interest in STM publishing, a degree would be an advantage. This position would be most suitable for someone wanting to gain experience in all aspects of publishing.

We offer an attractive salary and fringe benefits.

If you are interested please contact
Jackie Hughes on 01 257 4466 ext 201.

Academic Press

THE RT HONOURABLE DR DAVID OWEN, M.P.
requires a
SECRETARY/ASSISTANT
to handle correspondence

Suit graduate with good secretarial skills. Knowledge of SDP policy desirable. Work with friendly team in House of Commons office. Salary around £5,500 p.a.

Please apply to Maggie Smart, House of Commons, London SW1, or Telephone: 01-219 5531.

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL
(University of London)
SECRETARY

Experienced Secretary required to work for the Deputy School Secretary. The post is vacant immediately and requires fast accurate typing and good organisational abilities. The post will cover a variety of areas connected with the running of the School.

Salary on scale £6,617 to £7,692. 26 days annual leave.

Application forms may be obtained from the Personnel Office, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, 150 Duane Road, London W12 0NS

Closing ref: 1/12/G.

Closing date: 10 May, 1985.

Pathfinders
PO BOX 10000
30 MADDOCK STREET, W1
TEL: 01-629 0230

**KING'S COLLEGE
LONDON**

ASSISTANT
Student Services Section

Applications are invited from
adaptable and energetic persons

A MATERNITY ALLIANCE
**SECRETARY/
INFORMATION WORKER**

to work for a national organization which campaigns for improvements in rights and services for mothers, fathers and babies.

Responsibilities include secretarial work, dealing with orders for publications and assisting with the information service.

Applicants should have excellent typing skills and be able to work under pressure.

Half-time post (17½-hour week). Salary £3,762 inc. LW pro rata.

Further details from: Sue Hunt, Maternity Alliance, 55-61 Camden High Street, London NW1 7JL. Telephone: 01-388 8337.

Closing date: 20 May 1985.

The Maternity Alliance is an equal opportunity employer

ROYAL HOLLOWAY AND BEDFORD COLLEGES
SECRETARY

required for a Research Unit which a part of the Department of Social Policy and Social Science. The work will include a variety of administrative and organisational duties. In support of the team as well as the preparation of documents and manuscripts.

Applicants must have fast accurate typing, the ability to work under pressure and have previous secretarial experience. Knowledge of word processors is desirable. (OJivetti)

Salary scale £5,334-£6,439 plus £1,233 London Allowance, according to age and experience, 21 days annual leave and 5 college closure days, in addition to public holidays, superannuation scheme.

The post is based at Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3JA

Please send giving details of age, experience and qualifications, together with names and addresses of two referees, to Miss A. J. Overington, Administrative Officer, Parncliffe, Royal Holloway and Bedford Colleges, Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Are you a graduate under 25 ?
Interested in Journalism ?
Willing to work your way up ?

The British Sulphur Corporation, the world's leading publisher serving the fertilizer industry, requires an Assistant to join its editorial team preparing three bi-monthly journals.

In addition to assisting Editors with research and proof reading, applicants will be expected to write short contributions to major sections of the journals.

Salary: £6,000-£8,000 p.a.

Send your c.v. to the
Executive Editor,
British Sulphur Corporation,
Parnell House,
25 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1NL.
Telephone: 01-828 5571.

THE GUARDIAN FIELD SALES MANAGER

The Guardian, one of Britain's quality national newspapers, is experiencing a record period of growth and development. As a result of this growth, our Manchester office requires a first-class Field Sales Manager with drive, sales ability and team-management skills, to lead an enthusiastic sales force selling Classified and Display Advertising to both clients and agencies.

The successful applicant will already have gained several years' experience in media sales and is likely to be in a senior Management position at present.

For hard work, commitment and enthusiasm the rewards are excellent, including good career prospects, competitive salary, and other benefits associated with a large company.

Applications in writing to :
Caroline Marland
Advertisement Director
The Guardian
119 Farringdon Road
London EC1R 3ER

Or telephone :
Suzanne Francis
Northern Advertisement Manager
061-632 7200

The College is in the process of a merger with Queen Elizabeth College (Kensington) and Chelsea College (Chelsea) and the necessary movement of staff between the two sites is required.

The successful applicant will act as secretary, clerk and receptionist for the Section and deal with initial enquiries, referring to colleagues as appropriate.

Salary on scale 15,677-£2,692 per annum, dependent on experience and interview.

Apply with full cv as soon as possible to Christine Caw, King's College London, Strand, London WC2N 2LS. (Tel: 01-836 5454, ext 2268), from whom further particulars are available.

SENIOR SECRETARY

required by

ARCHITECTS, CLAPHAM COMMON SOUTH SIDE

Responsible for overall management of office administration and secretarial work for two partners and project teams. Previous experience of architectural work and familiarity with "Wordstar" an advantage.

Salary negotiable.

Please apply in writing, enclosing c.v., to Jane Fletcher, Castle Park Hook and Partners, Eagle Studios, 73B Clapham Common South Side, London, SW4 8DG.

CORPORATION OF LONDON

SECRETARIAL OFFICIAL

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THE FUTURE BUILDERS: A three part study of the architects of tomorrow by MARTIN PAWLEY

LAST autumn the Technology Assessment Board of the United States Congress—equivalent to an all-party House of Commons committee—listened to a presentation on the subject of the future of the construction industry. The speaker was delivered by Harry Miles, a director of McGraw-Hill Information Systems and chairman of the 4,000-member US Coordinating Council for Computers in Construction. What Miles told Congress was rather like what Ian MacGregor told Arthur Scargill—only the subject was not the future of economic pits, but the future of the profession of architecture.

Putting it bluntly, Miles predicted that four-fifths of

the 80,000 practising architects in the United States would be "dislocated" by the year 2000. "Construction design is highly labour-intensive," Miles explained. "Producing architectural drawings now accounts for half of all design costs for new buildings. Within 15 years, computer-aided design systems will have automated the drawing process, product specification and cost estimating."

This gloomy news was only perfunctorily reported in British architectural journals. There were after all more urgent matters: the bi-annual election for the presidency of the institute; the plan to cut graduate enrolments in 30 schools of architecture; the resignation of two members of staff

from a major practice involved in design work related to the Trident missile programme.

Predictions of extinction for their species are no new thing to Britain's 26,000 architects, who have now voted in their own form of zero population growth to cut future competition for a dwindling order-book of new construction work. On a scale of one to ten, the computer threat hardly makes the list at all.

The real problems that occupy their minds are defects in design relating to work they did years ago, fee-bargaining that can drive them into bankruptcy, the ravages of the Byzantine building control bureaucracy, undisciplined public and

media unpopularity, and falling real incomes which last year averaged only £13,500—a sum easily matched by any self-respecting double glazing salesman.

Architects are too worried about the present to have much time to think about the future, and this is unusual for a profession that a scant 20 years ago spoke enthusiastically about a 21st-century architecture of prefabricated pods, spasmas, megastructures and settlements in outer space. The change came with two terrible blows that architects suffered in the 1970s: the energy crisis that pulled the rug from under the massive publicly-financed housing, hospital, school and university programmes upon which most of those in established

practice today cut their teeth and the related, but still not clearly understood, revulsion against modern architecture that swept the Western world in its aftermath.

Today architects are shattered and lacking in confidence; their old modern ideology—the "New Worldism" that was so self-evidently good that it hardly needed describing—has, by a trick of cunning politicians, been thrown back in their faces. The disintegration of the public estate—a simply result of the 90 per cent cut in real spending that has taken place since 1979—is now blamed on them. In effect the profession is in disgrace for having tried to build 500,000 houses a year.

But it is one thing to be in disgrace and quite another to become extinct. Like politicians out of office, the most thoughtful of today's architects lie in wait for changing times. Even as a multitude of critics heap ordure on their heads they know that their art—the design of buildings—exercises a powerful fascination. Far more powerful today than when a dozen new towns were under construction and a new city—Milton Keynes—was aimed enthusiastically at the 21st century.

The "Green Giant," the "Carbuncle" and the "Glass Stump" have entered into the public consciousness with a force unequalled since the great Coventry Cathedral

HELLA PICK reports from Warsaw on the regal visitor from Moscow

Irony in the soul

POLAND'S outlawed trade union has not only the right, even in its own country, to the word "Solidarity". On Saturday a tape recorder on Lech Walesa's telephone in Gdansk was relaying a message to the effect that the ideals of Solidarity, the trade union, must be kept alive as a beacon towards fundamental reform in Poland.

Yet simultaneously, Polish television was broadcasting the Soviet Leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's promise of "invariable and constant solidarity" with "the Polish party's efforts to overcome the consequences of the crisis" caused among other factors, by the sprouting of the Solidarity trade union in 1980.

General Jaruzelski, still in civilian dress, abandoned his stiff demeanour to smile and wave as Mr Gorbachev beamed farewell at Warsaw's airport on Saturday afternoon. After half a day's intensive talks with General Jaruzelski, the Polish leadership had apparently obtained a nod of approval from the new broom in the Kremlin.

Poland obviously needs more energy, raw materials and overall economic support from the Soviet Union. With Mr Gorbachev anxious to streamline the Soviet economy, General Jaruzelski has very likely been encouraged to push harder for the implementation of a series of economic reforms.

Mr Gorbachev, probably choosing his words carefully, stressed his support for Poland's Communist Party rather than referring to the regime itself. Yet the Polish party is in deep decline and nobody has yet found a way to generate new dynamism amongst party loyalists, let alone how to win wider public support for the party.

The Polish church is the major beneficiary of the popular weariness with party propaganda and of the erosion of Solidarity, the trade union, a rallying point for national enthusiasts. General Jaruzelski recently told visiting American journalists of his frustrations with the church.

Being a Pole, he knows that the church cannot be ignored and reduced to impotence, as Lech Walesa has been.

But does the Soviet leader also recognise this fact of Polish life?

Last Friday the Warsaw Pact Treaty was extended by a minimum of 20 years, and a possible 30 years. But neither Mr Gorbachev's declaration of solidarity with the Polish Communist Party, nor his offer of aid from guidance on the length of the leash which new Soviet leaders intend to give to the Soviet Union's dependences in eastern Europe.

Even the other Warsaw Pact leaders themselves must have seen the irony that Gorbachev's remark that "History has known no other alliance like ours, in which relations are based on full equality and friendly neutral assistance of sovereign states."

Already, the few glimpses of the Warsaw Pact leaders afforded to the public emphasised the regal aura that surrounds them. But wherever he went, he was transported in huge Zils cars nine of which were brought in specially from the Soviet Union and alone was housed in Vilnius Palace.

From the accounts of those who met him here Mr Gorbachev applied the same kind of erudite charm that disarmed Mrs Thatcher. But nobody here doubts that there is steel and ruthless determination behind the facade. He is most unlikely to sanction a kind of free-wheeling debate in the Warsaw Pact, which he is doing his utmost to promote in Nato.

The only published declaration by Mr Gorbachev at Friday's summit had nothing to say on the role of the other Warsaw Pact countries. Instead concentrating almost entirely on the Soviet relations. The Kremlin is apparently refusing to negotiate nuclear arms reductions unless the United States abandons the development of space weapons.

The other Warsaw Pact countries are profoundly unhappy over the tense relationship between the superpowers. At Friday's summit there seems to have been some attempt to express these concerns to Mr Gorbachev.

Mr Gorbachev's published address to the Warsaw Pact leaders gave no firm clue on his response. There was a warning to the West that the Warsaw Pact would have to strengthen its organisation if Western "aggressive tendencies" continued. But there were none of the customary admonitions to the bloc for unity and cohesion.

This could be a reflection of greater disension than was apparent from the affable family picture taken of the summiteers. Or it could simply mean that Mr Gorbachev wants more time before defining his policies towards his "equals" in the Warsaw Pact.



Lambeth Community Care Centre, picture by Robin Nicholson. Ted Cullinan outside his house in Camden, picture by Roger Tooth (right).

Day one: Ted Cullinan believes that the key to successful design lies in exhaustive consultation with the people who will use the building

A joy for the maker and the user

IN 1984, when he was a 22-year-old student at the Architectural Association in London, Ted Cullinan's father took a 99-year lease on a war-damaged lighthouse on the edge of the South Downs in the next two years. Ted worked on the conversion of the small building into a house and found the process a source of inspiration, partly through the physical pleasure of it, and partly because the slowness of it all gave him time to ponder the junction of material with material; a release, as he was later to write, from any other life as an architect who works for clients, deals with governments, and builds to deadlines.

Thirty years later Cullinan has become an architect with a work ethic so exclusive that it has become legendary. And the force of the legend is so great that, although his office is run on the egalitarian lines of a Mondragón co-operative, he has attracted not only the praise of the Prince of Wales, but a commission to design new gates for the main entrance to Kensington Palace.

Cullinan specialises in social architecture based on extensive consultation with clients who are also building users. His 550,000 rebuilding of the parish church of Barnes, destroyed by fire in 1978, involved 300 meetings with representatives of the congregation, church authori-

ties, local authorities and other interested parties. The church was not a complete redesign whose cost in time and labour was so great that the six year gestation of the parish church involved him in a loss that was barely made good when his practice won this year's £10,000 International Interior Design award for the much-praised result.

Indifference to the accepted commercial measures of success or failure is printed through Cullinan's approach to architecture from his own tumbled sweat-soaked wardrobe to his office. Hidden in a converted warehouse reached from a service yard in a Camden backstreet, it can only be entered by passing through an archetypal late 20th century urban wasteland as remote from the sweeping isolation of the Bell Turret lighthouse as its mode of operation from the management principles of the Duchy of Cornwall.

Cullinan doesn't hold the view that a job won't pay if you can't pay assistants because we don't have assistants," he explains daily. "We share the money out, when and if it comes in, on a three-to-one ratio: nobody gets more than three times as much as anyone else."

"When all our ages were closer, we used to work on a two-to-one basis but when your ages range from 20 to



50 or 60 it goes up to three-to-one. It's the same as a Mondragón co-operative, they make washing machines that way."

Ted Cullinan's cooperative employs a changing number of assistants and assistants, but seldom more than 15. The main entrance door is heavily protected and there is an alarming notice about the danger of leaving it open because of "Bomber"—who turns out to be a dog.

The office interior, on two floors, has all the carefree disarray of a musician's rehearsal room where shift-work means that nothing ever really gets cleared away. Only superimposed on everything else, year after year. Upstairs is a store of drawing boards, perhaps half of them in use; downstairs a conference room bere of luxury or facilities except chairs and a solid table upon which much has been spilt including, possibly, blood—for in architecture feelings can run hot.

Cullinan is convinced that deep and prolonged consultation with building users will grow into an indispensable part of the architectural practice of the future, no matter how uncertain it is at present.

"Over the next 20 years everyone is going to have to come to terms with a continuing increase in popular awareness of what they work. It is often said of Eng-



land that we have peculiarly swift industrial relations. I would say that, on the contrary, we have a very well-informed working public with an information-gathering history of working with its hands."

My favourite quotation on the whole question comes from William Morris who said in a lecture called The Arts of the People: Meanwhile if these hours are dark do not let us sit deadlike like fools and fine gentlemen. Rather let us put our workshop in order against that great day when there is an art made by the people and for the people as a joy for the maker and the user.

"That may sound incredibly romantic but it is exactly what I think should happen. There is an absolutely inevitable and unstoppable increase in ordinary people's knowledge and, in the next century, they will demand—and they will get—a say in the architecture that is presented to them and the money that is spent on it."

"This has already happened with the design of machines, like aeroplanes and cars. Do you remember how cars used to be designed in the 1930s? They were complete style jobs and I don't think they are like that any more. I think that Which and Consumer Reports and the whole consumer movement radically changed their nature."

"The presses of the industry are no longer used to stamp out wonderfully silly, motors and people do now days have a much greater knowledge of the design and efficiency of cars. The general public understands cars much better than it used to understand buildings."

"At Lambeth Community Care Centre I don't know how many meetings we have had with the doctors and nurses and administration. I think it is something like 120 in three years. We don't charge for these meetings because they happen in the evenings. You just go and chat about the subject you love with lots of people."

"In Lambeth they had an idea for the first cottage hospital to be designed in London since the war. When they got the money from the Inner-City Fund and the National Health Service they chose us as architects although we were not on the NHS list because we understood that an institution began to decline from the moment when it designs premises especially for itself."

"It happens because of the solidifying effect of brief-writing when you ask every person in every department to say what he wants and he looks at what he's got put walls around it, and adds 50 per cent. That way you don't get a more open and fluid design, you get a larger and more closed situation, solidifying all the problems you had before."

"We attended three or four meetings, looked at some other health care buildings and then went straight in and produced a scheme. Which is fantastic, because if you put on the table in front of 17 people a complete project, they will immediately spot what's right and what's wrong in the places that relate to them on the plan. And the occupational therapist and physiotherapist will say, for the first time, 'Oh, we can share this bit, but not this bit, because this is where people address.'"

"Then they push it about and we produce, I don't know, 10 or 15 alternative schemes. Absolutely without circulation diagrams or any type of user needs or anything like that. I always tell students that anyone can do one of those things in an afternoon. The problem of architecture concerns the bits that it's made of, the quality of the place, and what it looks like and feels like."

The problem with Cullinan's method to an outsider is not only the exhausting quantity of time and energy it requires, but the nagging fear that he is sacrificing in the process of consultation the power of design that is the heart of architecture. Consultation may well dominate the design of buildings in the 21st century, but



will there still be architects? Or only clerks who "hold the pencil" for clients and users whose whims and prejudices always win the day.

Cullinan has no doubts because he believes the consultation process not only proceeds from growing public awareness, but because he accepts that more than half the population of this country wants no visible new building at all—a proportion that may well grow in the future.

He calls it "part of today" and encountered it head on with the rebuilding of Barnes church, where there was "a war with tears at public meetings with more than 300 people present" over the central question—whether to rebuild exactly as before, or to create something new.

Ted Cullinan refuses to see the French warfare of consultation as inimical to creative design, but on the contrary, believes with messianic zeal that it is the only way for architects in the future to serve an increasingly perceptive public. For him there is no question of the baby of inspiration being thrown out with the bathwater of prima facie architectural requirements. The advanced technology by Luddite obstruction. "You go to Barnes church," he says with quiet confidence. "I see who held the pencil."

NEXT: Richard Rogers.

Ken Livingstone may survive but the clash with central government has left its scars, writes JOHN CARVEL

The cost to the town halls in the battle of the budgets

MR KEN LIVINGSTONE yesterday succeeded in securing the parliamentary nomination for Brent East in spite of what he had described as a severe dose of the "political clap."

His unerringly handling of the GLC budget last month, culminating in a very public retreat from the tactic of refusing to set a rate, deprived him of any residual backing from ultra-left groups which he had meekly straddled over recent years. But his support among the unaligned broad left held good. He is the man in the street who has led the rate-capping crisis did not quite get.

Others have been less fortunate. The issue has caused the resignation of Mr George Meenan, leader of Haringey, who felt obliged to step down earlier this month when he could no longer support continued refusal to set a rate.

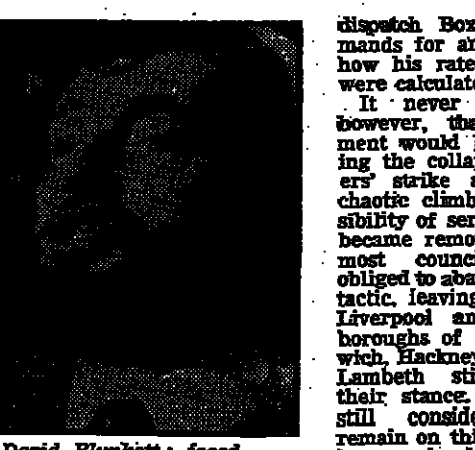
Mr Ron Stockbridge resigned as leader of Lewisham following a bizarre council meeting at which Opposition Tories passed a legal rate while the Labour group was absent from the council chamber trying to organise its retreat.

Mr Tony Ritchie, leader of Southwark, collapsed last week as his group headed towards a similar climb-down. Colleagues thought he had had a heart attack, but the doctors have diagnosed severe nervous exhaustion.

Among the urban left in the rate-capped areas, scores of political reputations (and parliamentary ambitions) have been put at risk as the issue separated the pragmatic sheep from ideological goats. A generation of young Labour councillors, brought up to believe that socialism has been betrayed by over-pliable party leaders, have been forced to review their perspectives.

This weekend, perhaps the biggest test of all got under way at Labour party meetings in Sheffield. Mr David Blunkett, the council leader, is a member of Labour's National Executive, chairman of the campaign group of rebel councillors, one of the most promising politicians of his generation and a hopeful for the safe Parliamentary seat of Sheffield Brightside. The next few days will decide whether or not his local party will require him to sacrifice himself in a pitched battle with the Government or whether he will be directed towards continuing a less ambitious but more sustainable guerrilla campaign.

The decision in Sheffield is pivotal to the future of the whole rate-capping struggle. The issue at stake is whether the majority Labour group on the council should agree to fix a legal rate and run a potentially deficit budget to avoid cuts in jobs and services, or whether it should stage an "all or bust" confrontation



David Blunkett: faced with a pivotal decision

with the Government by committing an outright act of flagrant municipal illegality.

Five times over the last two months Mr Blunkett has kept his disparate Labour group on the council united behind resolutions to defer making a rate. The feeling has been betrayed by over-pliable party leaders, have been forced to review their perspectives.

The deferred rate tactic was originally developed by Mr Ted Knight of Lambeth and other south London borough leaders. In the absence of any coherent alternative, it was accepted last summer by the Association of London Authorities which persuaded other areas of the country to back it at a Labour local government conference last July. The tactic then got the support of the Blackpool party conference and even sporadic endorsement from the Parliamentary leadership.

The aim was to mobilise public opinion against the "anti-democratic" nature of Government laws to force through spending cuts and to oblige ministers to negotiate a settlement.

The campaign had some initial success. The council last autumn and winter the 16 Labour rate-capped authorities maintained a remarkably united front. They refused to use the ap-

proposals in the rate-capping legislation on the grounds that this would accept the principle of the new system, would allow Mr Jenkins to impose conditions on their future spending and might enable him to sow division by offering appealing deals to some councils, leaving others in the lurch.

The councils mobilised support from the trade unions and their communities. Recent opinion polls suggest they have awakened strong local antagonism against central government's attempts to cut spending. Their campaign reached a high point in the spring when Mr Jenkins went through councils at the

dispatch box to escape demands for an explanation of how his rate-capping figures were calculated.

It never looked likely, however, that the Government would give in. Following the collapse of the miners' strike and the GLC's chaotic climb-down, the pressure for serious concessions became remote. One by one most councils have felt obliged to abandon the no-rate tactic, leaving only Sheffield, Liverpool and the London boroughs of Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Islington, and Lambeth still maintaining their stance. (If Southwark remains itself to remain on this list, it is only because local union activists physically prevented the council meeting to fix a rate on Friday.)

Labour councillors in these areas are already at considerable personal risk. Liverpool is financially strung because it is continuing to receive full Government grant and instalment payments from last year's (late) rate. The London councils are getting "stress borough" payments from the GLC to help their cash flow.

But in most cases, councillors have probably passed the point where the district auditor could claim the authorities are suffering financial loss because of "wilful misconduct" in failing to make a rate. They are at risk of surcharge and disqualification.

Labour leaders, such as Mrs Margaret Hodge of Islington, using this position of plight as evidence that the Government has not been a matter of idle political posturing. Who would have thought, she asks, that so many councils would come this far. In truth the Government has called the councils' bluff and most of the leaders are soldiering on for want of an acceptable fallback position.

They are being left to stew by Mr Jenkins, whose performance on this issue over the last two months has gone some way to restore his dented reputation. He has broken normal parliamentary etiquette by refusing the shadow Environment Secretary, Dr John Gummer, the opportunity to bring in a deputation which the Government fears would give the councils hope. In the High Court, Mr Justice Woolf has given Hackney until the end of May to comply with the law, demonstrating that the judiciary is reluctant to get involved. Auditors have issued warnings, but do not intend to initiate surcharge actions until they are absolutely sure of winning them.

The Sheffield city Labour Party initiative is designed to break this impasse. Mr Blunkett has made it clear that he will drape himself over the barbed wire of surcharge and disqualification if the party decides this is the only way for the troops to advance. But he has also given coded signals that he thinks the time is right to fix a rate and work within it to avoid cuts in jobs and services.

Rate-capping, like painting the Forth Bridge, is a process which begins at one end and soon as it is finished at the other. The Government is preparing to announce in July the arrangements for the second year of rate-capping which will begin in April 1986. There are important questions for both sides.

Councils mobilised popular support against the first year of rate-capping by suggesting that it would cause intolerable cuts in services. Yet almost all the authorities which have fixed a legal rate now seem to be getting through the year without making real cuts. With local people believe them when they (more honestly) claim that the second year of rate-capping will bite hard? Or will they, like the little boy who cried wolf, lose popular sympathy when the real crunch comes?

For the Government the outlook is equally uncertain. Mr Jenkins must by now have learned that local authorities are amazingly elastic. How can he fix exactly the right rate limit for 1986-87 to secure the cuts he wants without causing the elastic to break and snap back in his face?

From the accounts of those who met him here Mr Gorbachev applied the same kind of erudite charm that disarmed Mrs Thatcher. But nobody here doubts that there is steel and ruthless determination behind the facade. He is most unlikely to sanction a kind of free-wheeling debate in the Warsaw Pact, which he is doing his utmost to promote in Nato.

The only published declaration by Mr Gorbachev at Friday's summit had nothing to say on the role of the other Warsaw Pact countries. Instead concentrating almost entirely on the Soviet relations. The Kremlin is apparently refusing to negotiate nuclear arms reductions unless the United States abandons the development of space weapons.

The other Warsaw Pact countries are profoundly unhappy over the tense relationship between the superpowers. At Friday's summit there seems to have been some attempt to express these concerns to Mr Gorbachev.

Mr Gorbachev's published address to the Warsaw Pact leaders gave no firm clue on his response. There was a warning to the West that the Warsaw Pact would have to strengthen its organisation if Western "aggressive tendencies" continued. But there were none of the customary admonitions to the bloc for unity and cohesion.

This could be a reflection of greater disension than was apparent from the affable family picture taken of the summiteers. Or it could simply mean that Mr Gorbachev wants more time before defining his policies towards his "equals" in the Warsaw Pact.

How an unhappy wife and mother became a nun, found favour with God and was promoted to patron saint of the impossible



Polly Toynbee

AN opinion poll of Italian Catholics has just revealed, to the amazement of many, that the Virgin Mary has been ousted for the first time from her place as the most popular saint. At the top of the poll instead came Saint Rita of Cascia. Who is Saint Rita, and why has she supplanted the Virgin?

Almost every church in Italy has a statue, a picture or a shrine to St Rita. In Italy last year I noticed time and again a cluster of women praying intensely at her altars for St Rita's intercession in their time of trouble and unhappiness.

One of her prayers reads: "At this critical stage in my life, being so mercilessly surrounded, my heart is alleviated and enlivened. My Saint, I am sure that you will obtain for me from our beloved Jesus the intention I have asked. Please, virtuous Rita, save me by the grace of your sufferings in your married life."

For Saint Rita is the patron saint of women suffering from misery of cruel and brutal husbands. She is listed as a saint of the impossible, a helper of desperate cases.

I turned to the various dictionaries of saints. They make it clear that there is very little contemporary authentication of her story. Born in 1377 in Umbria, she died in 1447, but the first written story of her life was not compiled until around 1600, from the oral tradition surrounding her cult.

The cuttings library of The Universe, the Catholic news-

paper, is a remarkable place. In the file of St Rita there were yellowed cuttings going back to the day of her canonisation in 1900. The Roman letter from "our own correspondent" describes the splendour of the great ceremony at a leisurely and delightfully purple pace.

Tucked away in the file was a devotional life of Saint Rita, together with a little envelope containing dried rose petals and instructions for their use: "Blessed Roses of St Rita. First dry the petals. The fragments may then be taken for nine days, either in water or mixed with food. One Pater, Ave, and Gloria with the invocation, 'St Rita, Patroness of the impossible, pray for us' should be recited each day."

The booklet tells of her life: her parents "though very poor, were pious and kind. They lived by and for the love of God, drawing patience and fortitude from the abundance of the crucified." For many years they had no children but her mother "would not cease her prayers for a little one to enlighten their hard and weary lives." At the age of 53 God sent his angel to announce that from her a great woman will arise. The infant would be called Maria Rita, later shortened to Rita.

"Hardly a week had passed after her birth when miracles began to occur: while working in the fields, the peasant parents left the infant Rita under a big sandy tree. A cluster of bees came over her, and big ones landed in her mouth, and poured honey into it without even stinging her."

A peasant who had cut his hand harvesting chased the bees away and found his wound miraculously cured.

"At the age of seven the rays of virtue were shining in her spirit. She was submissive, completely obedient and satisfied with delicate delicacy... Young Rita heard how St Francis participated in the sufferings of Christ Crucified. She wished to be called to the cross, or at least to suffer with Jesus his most painful wounds."

"Her soul throbbed with infatuation for God. She

yearned for the monastic life. However, the Almighty desired that she ascend the way to Calvary first." Which is another way of saying she was destined for marriage.

Her parents chose for her a "cruel and sinful husband. He poured his furious anger on poor Rita. He slandered and beat her. She had prayed to God not to be made to marry him, but 'God wanted her to be a symbol for martyred wives'."

She bore two sons. The family was involved in the bitter feuds of the times and her husband was killed in one of these. "Rita's grievance on the murder of her husband didn't forbid her heavenly nature from forgiving the killer."

Her sons, though, swore their revenge. She was so anxious for the sake of their souls that they should not commit murder themselves, that she prayed that God would take their lives. "God granted her prayers and her two sons died of illness, one after the other. Rita was now alone in the world, united only with her God; at last she was free!"

Rita entered an Augustinian nunnery, after making several unsuccessful applications, since at the time they admitted only virgins. There she flogged herself three times a day and wore clothes of pigskin. One day, praying in front of a crucifix, asking to share Christ's suffering, her wish was granted and a thorn flew off the cross and embedded itself in her forehead. The suppurating wound stayed with her all her life, and smelled so terrible that she lived apart from the other nuns.

Shortly before her death, she called for roses in the middle of winter, and some were found in her garden. She called for figs and two were found on a leafless tree. Angels rang the convent bells when she died, and her wound was found to have been replaced by a glowing ruby. Her body was found uncorrupted many years later, and now her skeleton is on display at her shrine at Cascia, with a hole in the skull marking her stigmata.

In England, the centre for St Rita worship is St Rita's College, a seminary in Houlton in Devon, where every year a novena — nine days of prayer — is held leading up to her saint's day, May 22. Advertisements are currently displayed in the Catholic press for this event.

D. H. Farmer, compiler of the Oxford Book of Saints, comments about her cult somewhat wryly: "The supply of unsatisfactory husbands has not diminished over the centuries, and it may well explain her popularity."

The politics of St Rita's late canonisation are interesting. Although she was already the Blessed Rita, and venerated as a saint, information about her was less than reliable. Her cult drew the common people — mainly women, and not the learned, which made the Vatican reluctant. The text quoted above firmly says she was illiterate and knew only the Bible.

By 1900 it was apparent that her cult was immensely popular. It appears that at the time the Vatican may have been anxious to provide a model wife, and to shore up the sanctity of marriage. A saint who earned a place in heaven through tolerating a monstrous husband was an encouragement to similarly afflicted women who might consider abandoning the struggle, battered wives could be urged to find spiritual joy in their suffering.

However, the lessons to be drawn from the lives of the saints change with the fashions of the times. Brother Cyril Coubman of the Austin Friars in Hammersmith, recently back from working in the headquarters of the Augustinians in Rome, was reading through the final approved text of a new Life of St Rita, shortly to be published by the Catholic Truth Society.

He explained that the worship of saints had changed greatly since the Second Vatican Council discouraged the odd devotion to saints.

But recently, perhaps under the influence of the present Pope, he says there has been a marked return to the saints. "People are looking at the example and asking for the

intercession of the saints, but in a new way."

What is fascinating about the new Life of St Rita, is that it turns the old story entirely on its head, and finds a whole new purpose for Rita as a model. This tract stresses how little is really known, how slender the contemporary evidence is, but nevertheless goes on to draw out a whole new picture of her life. Surprisingly, it denies that her husband was a wicked man at all. Rita, exemplar of wifely tolerance, has gone.

Instead there is a new version of Rita as peace-maker in a troubled world. For she apparently attempted to make peace between the feuding factions in the Cascia of her day, a fact entirely omitted from the earlier pamphlet quoted above. According to this new version, her holiness came from her life in the convent, and the pain of her stigmata, and not from her cruel husband.

It seems doubtful that this new vision of St Rita will catch on. There are, after all, plenty of holy contemplative nuns to choose from among the saints. As Brother Cyril says: "Her appeal is that she is so human and real, not a plaster saint. People can easily understand the sufferings she went through and the difficulties she had in her life, perhaps particularly people with unhappy marriages."

It is not hard to understand why the Virgin Mary has been supplanted. For virgin motherhood was always a puzzling ideal to aim at. Surviving insufferable husbands may be a cause a little closer to the ordinary lives of Catholic women.

At the end of the Life of St Rita sent out by St Rita's Press in Honiton, there is an indulgence prayer officially decreed to grant 300 days off purgatory to all who devoutly recite this prayer in honour of St Rita of Cascia once a day:

"O Glorious Rita, who didst miraculously participate in the sorrowful Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, obtain for me the grace to suffer with resignation the troubles of this life, and protect me in all my needs. Amen."



St Rita, as seen in St Peter's Italian Church, London. Picture by Martin Argles

The women who found a voice in Africa Naomi Mitchison reports from Botswana

IT WAS NOT such a long struggle in Botswana as it has been in many other countries, including our own. No professions are closed to women and there is quite a long tradition of women doctors. Voting when it came for all citizens, though that of course does not stop a woman voter waiting to see what her husband thinks, something not unknown nearer home.

Primary school teachers are mostly women, including the heads of schools which may have up to a thousand pupils. But discipline is on the whole easy; most children want to go to school, and in these years of drought and shortage school may be the place where at least you get

one good meal of porridge and milk.

There are many women teachers in secondary schools all over the country, but not many heads. A few are in the inspectorate. Most of the responsible teachers are likely to be married, often with quite large families. There are still far too many young unqualified teachers, mostly girls, but with the present policy of getting everyone into some kind of school at some time, it seems likely to go on.

There are plenty of women lawyers and a great many in business. Some are in the farmers employing staff to deal with cattle and crops. When it comes to the civil service, there are of course hundreds of secretaries at all levels. Any girl who gets a Junior Certificate, but probably stops there, is likely to see

herself in an office job, perhaps in local government.

An increasing number of women are being elected to local bodies; they give their opinions and they are respected. It seems that some men on local bodies who had lapsed into inefficiency or small scale corruption, but expected to be re-elected because they had always been, are being supplanted by sensible and honest women who are taking the job, whatever it is, seriously.

All this has happened in a short time. I remember, more than twenty years ago when Kgosi Lincwe II of the Basgatla, said to me shortly before his instalment "They — (the Tribal Council) — laughed at me when I said that the women should come to the village. They won't laugh when I am Chief." And so it happened and the

women came, at first saying little, then gradually taking to speaking and voting, unhampered by the babies on their backs, who seemed to take it to too. He went on to make changes in tribal law and custom, all to help the women.

But of course it is easier to change laws than to change attitudes. A pregnant school girl can go to the District Commissioner and complain; he says "Bring the boy." But the boy has conveniently disappeared. The baby is born; the boy says "It is not mine" and the girl is left with her life spoiled. Usually her mother agrees to take the baby, even if she has one of her own to look after, but some girls may have nobody to turn to.

Girls are afraid to go to the clinic (State approved) if they are under sixteen and must

go with a parent. Many mothers get furious and accuse their daughters of trying to be bad women, who seem to be only looking for protection from fellow pupils and male teachers. I fear there are mothers like that in our own country and our new law may bring the same misery. What is needed in both countries is to increase the boys' sense of responsibility. But how?

To go back to figures: the percentage of women in the Botswana National Assembly is considerably higher than in our House of Commons. Among the Ministers, the only one who is probably the most well respected is Miss Chiepe. She is a Kalanga and they occupy about the same position as the Scots did in England some five generations back; that is to say they are keen upward movers, but not un-

naturally incur some criticism in a country which considers itself firmly united.

Among my women friends one is President of the Botswana Co-operative Bank and member of a very important parastatal Board. I think this is less unusual here in Botswana than it is so far in Britain. However, her real, hard-working position is as Matron-in-Chief for Southern Botswana, including the whole nursing service, no light work.

Others run various businesses or are in Government Service. But this is the top layer of society. There are still many women of the older generation who got little or no education, the ordinary housewives, who, if they have any other occupation, perhaps run a shebeen. But they were also the ones who knew what wild plants were good

for food or domestic medicine. They rushed out to get "spinach" as soon as the rains brought a small crop. Giving this to the children probably accounts for the comparatively few cases of xerophthalmia in Botswana.

But if one generation knows thirty plants or berries, the next generation knows only twenty, and so it goes. Those older women planted their crops, different kinds of beans and roots or herbs on the edges of sorghum or maize fields. That was in the days of hand sowing. Now that all crops are drilled by men and machines, there is no room for the women's crops.

There is little trade for women potters; enamel bowls and pails are so much lighter to carry. Fewer baskets are woven and the drought has made it very hard to find the

right grasses. Some aspects of life are impoverished. But more babies survive and children here are much loved and, because of that, well behaved. In the days of polygamy or when wives went back to their parents to have and nurse the baby, there was some spacing of births; this no longer happens.

In a big family grandmothers and aunts help, but in farming-time wives customarily go with their husbands to the lands, often leaving five or six year olds at school, but living rather precariously with older siblings or relations. It certainly isn't an easy life. But I doubt if any specific "women's liberation" movement from on top will change it. The change will come as the whole nation changes, battling, for good or ill, to find its place in the sometimes cruel modern world.

Vanity Fair

EVEN over in the Capitalist State of Castleton there are rotten roads, noisy and thick with fumes, and it is beside such a road that Socialist Minority Councillor Megs, with his wife and baby. But in the few brief hours of night which remain to them between baby's crying, playing and sucking, they still lie sleepless, shaken awake by the thundering juggernauts which race day and night past their home. In fact, Councillor cannot see why Irish Meat Transporters en route for the Continent need pass through Castleton at all.

And so he invited our Transport Minister (who won't allow a night-time ban on lorries) to spend 24 hours in his shuddering home stand on his balcony and experience the hell in which residents live, but Minister won't answer.

Minister's not interested in the loose mortar, cracked walls, sleeplessness and breakdowns contained within the roadside dwellings. He wants an Enquiry. The trouble is that we've had five public enquiries about this already. Minister ignored 33 recommendations from all of them and wants another one.

Traffic lobbies have begged him not to, but it's like his lust for privatising. He must, must have Enquiry. He just loves the tension of it all, the frustration, the delay, the sight of the city crumbling and the residents all going barking mad as things twiddle along to ruin.

Also it's relaxing for him. He's not the most energetic of Ministers and this way he can just flop about, watching, waiting, not bawling things.

It can be a good life, the life of a Minister. There you are, all powerful, watching from on high, like the Archetypal Ironist, knowing the inevitability of the future and the futility of the struggle, seeing the joke.

Of course there are also sensible reasons for jumbo

lorries to pelt through the metropolis day and night. There's no traffic at night. They can whizz along at 50 mph. It cracks up the roads and houses a bit more but it's quicker. It's also it's more interesting.

There are more and pleasanter tea-shops and lavatories for the weary drivers, more for them to look at. It's a dull and boring life, just driving along a soulless motorway.

Juggernauts could stop outside town and change loads to smaller lorries. Gargantuan Frozen Foods, a giant among haulage firms, said they'd build a trans-shipment depot for the change-over. They could do it with no extra cost and so co-operate with a night-time ban.

So it can be done, but Minister and other transporters aren't as obliging. What puts them off is the belief that we are a flawed species in the main, and if everyone swapped over loads mid-journey, that would give the tea-leaves another go at it, double opportunity for things to fall from the backs of lorries, like the shiploads of Japanese televisions that do already.

Anyway, juggernauts can be fun. Down in the country there's going to be a Juggernaut Jamboree this month. "Extrovert international star" drivers with "big personalities" to suit the jumbo-sized racers shall be thundering around courting Death.

Councillor and other roadside residents must be more positive, pretend they're at the circuit, soak up the thrill of it all and meanwhile, like many of his kind, Minister shall watch His own toy circuit from above — the little people below, deafened and trembling, the little councillor screaming on his balcony, the tiny crumbling homes and worn out roads. All His-own work. He doesn't need to visit.

Michele Hanson



Songs on the way to a British Sondheim

IS THERE life after Lloyd Webber? Or is the recent revival of the British musical a mere flash in the Tin Pan Alley?

These were two of many questions prompted by a Friday morning session at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The occasion was the final of the Vivian Ellis Prize, a national competition for young writers for the musical stage, initiated by the Performing Rights Society and the Guildhall School.

What we heard on Friday were two songs, one from the five front-runners with the 5000 prize going to composer George Stiles (23) and lyricist Anthony Brown (24) for their version of Kipling's Just So Stories.

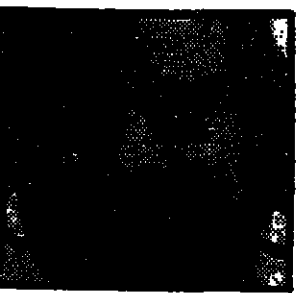
What we also heard was a

good deal of jaw-jaw from the judges and the audience all keen to offer their reflections on the current and future state of the musical.

The first thing to say is that the Vivian Ellis Prize was itself a cheering event. People are still out there writing shows. One finalist, all of 13, had written a metaphorical musical about good and evil, including a torch song, 'I am Good and Evil', and a song about a young writer for the musical stage (as Tim Rice pointed out) was the kind of number one associates with Ellis or Billy Holliday. Another finalist, Charles Hart, proffered a satirical version of 'Milk and Honey' that showed a gift for multiple internal rhymes and playful counterpoint, a slightly reminiscent of Stephen Sondheim.

Inevitably, Sondheim's

Does Stephen Sondheim (right) point the way ahead for British musical writers? Michael Billington reports



beautiful and relatively simple song, 'Smile in the Park With George, the show is a popular smash. Sondheim's music and lyrics are rich and complex: what they need are uncluttered productions.

But is he a dubious model? Emphatically not. What has been shown is that the modern musical can take on board substantial ideas (the Americanisation of the East, Victorian moral squalor, the changing role of the artist) and that a present-day composer can hardly pretend to exist. As a musical writer on Friday suggested that we ask a much of the musical. I would claim that we often don't ask enough. If the musical is to survive, it has to be free to take on the whole of life and to do so in an

idom that reflects the growing complexity of twentieth-century music.

I am not suggesting we send in troops of Sondheim clones; nor am I denying that people clearly go to musicals for spectacle, pizzazz and uplift. The crowds that throng nightly into 22nd Street are evidence of that. But it is worth pointing out that the American blockbuster musical has currently reached an exhaustion-point (there is to be no Tony Award for Best Musical this year because of a dearth of candidates) and there is no steady supply of lavish imports waiting in the wings to fill our big theatres. If we want new musicals, we are clearly going to have to make our own.

The only certain truth is that audiences clearly relish

ideas that are bold, bizarre and highly theatrical. The popular British hits of recent years have concerned themselves with Jesus Christ, Eva Peron, dancing cats and skating trains: now we are promised one on an international chess competition.

What we lack in Britain is any off-Broadway-style house where you can workshop a musical and lick it slowly into shape.

What we urgently need is a safe house where the future Lloyd Webbers can try out their work free from the murderous economies of the West End. Then — and only then — will be able to capitalise on the British musical's recent restoration to something approaching life and offer a home to the embryonic talents thrown up by the Vivian Ellis Prize.

Nancy Banks-Smith on why all's well that ends well for the BBC-TV Shakespeare

Titus groans

YOU can come out now. It's all over, the whistle's gone and its safe to drink the water.

When the BBC TV Shakespeare series began seven years ago, Sir Cullachan was Prime Minister (you remember Jim?), the colour licence was £25, and Captain Oates had been gone some time. They were getting quite worried about him.

The BBC have sold all 37 plays to 41 countries. Some countries admittedly were difficult. America offered to put up the money if the BBC would remake a couple of Aids and Russia and Scandinavia jibbed at buying the whole thing, turning slightly pink and asking if they could have just Romeo and Juliet, please.

One is reminded of Ena Sharples's famous first words, "I'll take half a dozen fancies and no more." It is quite the blindest play in Shakespeare, rarely performed but when it is it seems to play wonderfully well. The customers have always loved it. Titus has lost 21 sons in war before it begins (his wife appears to be dead too and one is not surprised) and 13 more characters die in the course of the play, not counting a clown who gets scolded in the machinery while delivering a couple of pigeons, and the fly.

The scene of the fly would stamp the play as Shakespeare's if nothing else. It is one of those dreadful meals, so familiar in families. Titus has had one hand lopped off. Lavinia, his daughter, has lost two and her tongue to prevent her naming her rapists. They are now more or less mad. When Titus's brother kills a fly, he turns on him: "How is that fly had a father and a mother? How would he have dared to murder, gilded things? And buzz lamenting doings in the air. Poor harmless fly! But with his pretty, buzzing melody, came here to make us merry and thou hast killed him."

There must have been moments when the director, Jane Howell, wondered, like Lavinia, what she had done to deserve all this. She gave what were incontrovertibly the scrag-end plays, the Wars of the Roses and Titus. Often, in the course of the series, it was the least regarded, the neglected plays which offered the best chances of surprise and delight and those big, booming Wars of the Roses were a notable hit for Jane Howell.

The whole sequence was played in one month with one repertory company in one warehouse converted in a ramshackle fashion with scaffolding and swinging doors. On the doors swung in and the doors swung out and kings came in and corpses passed out. And your father, I fear, has his head on a spear behind those swinging doors. They did open their own momentum, making you wonder if the seven-year series wasn't simply too slow.

I did not know Titus at all, which put me in the shoes of that hapless of men, overheard at a Hollywood Hamlet, who said: "I bet I'm the only son of a bitch here who doesn't know how this thing comes out." Titus, who seemed to have abandoned the army for a small butchery business, hung up his daughter's rapists like pigs, slit their throats and baked them in a pie for their mother to eat. My mouth fell open so wide you could have popped a lemon.

Trevor Peacock was a good, gruff, tough Titus and Anna Calder-Marshall a superb Lavinia.

Tom Sutcliffe on Placido Domingo's Andrea Chenier at Covent Garden

A fright at the Opera

SOMETIMES opera is just like show-jumping. Will Placido Domingo, world's greatest tenor, have a clear head? There are some cliff-foot fences in Giordano's Andrea Chenier, though they've never been a problem to the other world's greatest tenor Luciano Pavarotti, and famous old Italian stollens like Bergonzi, Gigli and Corelli used to sail over them.

On Saturday Domingo seemed to be rushing his fences. In fact, in show-jumping terms, he'd walked through two courses of bricks and bashed his hind leg against wedges of brick in the wings. He'd actually expect a world's greatest tenor to refuse.

The big act one number, 'Un di all'azzurro spazio' had just got to its revolutionary core. The tenor-pot should have been describing how he had overheard a poor old man cursing his poverty. Instead he simply walked into the wings — leaving the orchestra holding the chord.

Time stood still. Everybody stared transfixed at the spot where Domingo had made his last voice only one and then the curtains closed and the band stopped, and almost at once Sir John Tooley, director of the opera, sprang out in front of the curtains as if he'd been waiting in the wings. "Mr Domingo, as you will have realised is indisposed. Is there a doctor in the house? In fact I know there is. World Dr Marshall please come down to the door at the front of the stalls."

After about 10 minutes with the house lights up Sir John brought more news. "Mr Domingo is unwell, but it is only some kind of indigestion. He has gone back to his dressing-room to do some vocal exercises, and we shall be re-starting the performance from the beginning of his aria in a few more minutes."

Finally the curtains parted to reveal the tenor cowering stage.

Of course the excitement was immense. A second refusal was unthinkable — it would have been like a nervous breakdown. The dramatic meaning of the aria was utterly ruined. Those B flats should be offensive, brutal and indecorous, assaults on ancient regime delinquents. But now everybody hung on them, willing Domingo to succeed.

And indeed he found the resource to register the notes with the required generosity, which had been evading him earlier in the show.

What really happened? It certainly looked and felt as though he had walked off in a fit of temperance because he was dissatisfied with how his performance was going. Domingo is less than ideal for the role of Chenier because of the kind of tenor he is. It requires real danger and a poor old man cursing his poverty and dancing Domingo has a wonderful technique, but he seldom takes risks or follows the drama into the imaginative tension below the surface of the music.

Apart from the pleasure of Domingo's voice, only one other singer in this revival is worth attention. Giorgio Zancanaro may not stretch to acting, but he has a truly marvellous baritone. In act one he sings a stirring and vibrant 'Miserere' and goes cutting edge. Anna Tomowa-Sintow's stolid but dull Maddalena is a severe come-down after Roskind Flower's fireworks.

Richard Armstrong's rhythmic drive when this production was first borrowed from Cologne was far preferable to the flaccid conducting of Julius Rudel, who does seem one of the world's worst. Covent Garden, taking Rudel, put a cruel handicap on both the big tenor shows of the last eight weeks (Vicki's Samson was almost destroyed). What will they think of next? Why hire star singers if you're not going to match them with quality conductors?

Edward Greenfield welcomes von Karajan back to London

Fourth on fire

IN THE four years since Herbert von Karajan last conducted the Berlin Philharmonic in London, the long-standing relationship between conductor and orchestra has had a stormy history. Recent records have suggested that no lasting harm has been done musically by the bitter and prolonged row, and here was a concert of Beethoven and Strauss to show even more conclusively that Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic as a combination remain peerless in the world of music.

Subtly the sound has changed, and indeed here the interpretations have been carefully recorded. I have chapter and verse on the way in which both Beethoven's Fourth Symphony (last played here by him in 1970) and Strauss's Ein Heldenleben (last played here in 1976) have relaxed a degree in their speeds.

The small margin in seconds does nothing to diminish the Karajan electricity but a lot to allow musical elbow room for the layers of sound, including such masterly soloists as the oboist, Lothar Koch, and the clarinetist, Karl Leister.

In Beethoven's now the rhythms have extra spring to them, and what this performance of the Fourth Symphony established was that Karajan's new recording is the way that he now brings out the sparseness of much of the writing. Karajan always used to be accused of producing too saturated a sound from the orchestra, but now with string tones fresher than before but just as sweet and true, the result is leaner and more sharply communicative.

So the pianissimo leading back to the recapitulation in the first movement with its fragmentary phrases hushed over a softly menacing funeral rite pointed forward to the menace of war passage at the end of the Missa Solenne. The Fourth continued with a few more of the lighter, intermediate work it often seems. I only wish Karajan would now start to observe exposition repeats.

That Karajan has aged is patently true. He is still fully even in climbing the podium, but interpretatively there is nothing but gain. Where once he would casually make Strauss seem as great as Beethoven, it was now that he made Beethoven seem as great as Strauss. He was now making his own music, even though Heldenleben was played for all it is worth.



Refreshingly alert: Samantha Eggar and John Hurt in *The Seagull*. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

Michael Billington reviews *The Seagull* at the Lyric Hammersmith

Just a chuckle with Chekhov

I SET out for *The Seagull* at the Lyric Hammersmith thinking the British do too much Chekhov. London alone has seen this play three times in the last four years in productions by the Royal Court, Shared Experience and Greenfield. Do we need to re-visit Sorin's estate quite so soon? But after three hours spent watching Charles Sturridge's (jointly presented by Oxford Playhouse) in the company of a packed Saturday-night house, I was persuaded both that there is a public hunger for Chekhov and that Mr Sturridge had re-thought the play.

Like every director in my experience, he says he wishes to bring out the comedy. The difference is that he has. When Phoebe Nicholls's Masha says she is in mourning, she flings herself tempestuously on a chaise-longue and then spreads her arms wide adding "for my life". It gets a laugh. When Alfred Burke's excellent aristocratic Sorin cackles over his own wasted life, we share his despairing amusement. And when Natasha Richardson's bright-eyed, lyrical Nina echoes Arkadina's wish to be stuck in a hotel room learning a part, we chuckle gently at her naivete. I see nothing wrong in this. In Chekhov tragedy is inter-splashed with comedy, and Stanislavski himself once wrote: "You will notice that Chekhov's plays are accompanied by the continuous laughter of the audience."

The law in Mr Sturridge's approach is that he mixes the play's intellectual content (there is a continuing debate going on about the indivisibility of spirit and matter) and that he sometimes misses the desperation under the thin crust of comedy. Where, for instance, in Jean Rimmer's

Polina, shackled to the coarse estate-manager, is the acting passion for Doctor Dorn? And where in Samantha Eggar's beautiful Arkadina, flustering her shawl to prove she is "light as a bird", is the strenuous fear of losing Trigorin? In her moment of battle she needles against his crotch and squeezes his thigh as if ashamed of easy conquest; and her subsequent "Stay if you want to" for once misses its usual laugh.

In stripping the play of bogus English wistfulness, Mr Sturridge sometimes forfeits real Russian soulache. But (as we know from *Brideshead*) he is good with actors and three of the main performances are spot-on. John Hurt's Trigorin is the best thing I have seen him do in the theatre: outwardly elegant, inwardly full of self-disgust and appalled by his own moral weakness, even clenching his fist when vamped by Arkadina. John Lynch's Konstantin, with urgent, accusing profile, genuinely looks like a man with nails being driven into his brain.

Phoebe Nicholls's Masha, hungrily devouring every word Konstantin says and throwing up after his death, also manages to be comic and tragic at the same time. But about Natasha Richardson's Nina I am divided. She is brilliant at the interpenetrating youthful ardour and awe in the presence of fame. What she misses is the sense of ruin in the fourth-act return: she is like a seagull who has been mildly winged rather than fatally shot (my own feeling is that the writing here declines into sentimental melodrama). But even given what were incontrovertibly the scrag-end plays, the Wars of the Roses and Titus. Often, in the course of the series, it was the least regarded, the neglected plays which offered the best chances of surprise and delight and those big, booming Wars of the Roses were a notable hit for Jane Howell.

whereby the heroine addresses the audience with third-person commentary from the novel and a large empty stage isolates the characters like insects under a magnifying glass. It does its job but it's used to produce a chain-copy of a Savile Row suit rather than a piece of theatre in its own right.

It's better when the production doesn't try to imitate Jane Austen's genius. For instance, Horlock and his case clerk and free from the phony minute observation of characters so instead they turn in some enjoyable comic acting. In particular, Helen Gemmell as Emma bubbles with delight and burns with frustration.

The play faithfully includes a large amount of plot but, without Austen's incomparable descriptions, it's like Emma's father's "egg boiled very soft."

Fortunately, Jane Austen's own sense of drama provides some muscle. Her sparkling dialogue, often presented verbatim, sounds as good as it reads and the crescendo of dramatic tension preceding Emma's insult to Miss Bates is almost as electrifying on stage as on the page.

My New Family, by Althea (1984, Dinosaur, £1.95), offers us the confused hopes and fears of a small girl who is leaving her children's home to live with her foster family. Sue McMaster's sympathetic drawings capture the tensions of the story, though I still find the faux-naïf (sometimes genuinely awful) house-style of Althea's illustrators irritating. This is a longer, larger-format picture book than the familiar Little Dinosaur, but like them it is designed to help not only children with a problem to explore their feelings and to cope, but the rest of a more fortunate world to understand: it may even prompt another family to consider fostering.

Robin Thorner on the new Wesker

Menopausal man

ARNOLD Wesker's new play is a very dull, slight, and shoddy piece which is unlikely to even cast a warm glow around Leicester.

He describes the play as an "entertainment," presumably to let it off the hook of having to be ponderous, or what he would call serious. He includes a male and a female nude and some conjuring tricks, and people use the word "fuck" quite naturally and quite often, so I suppose he would regard it as positively frivolous and daring at the same time. It drops names like Spinoza and Nietzsche in a way that is almost unrecognisable.

Written in 1978, One More Ride On The Merry-Go-Round is about a professor of moral philosophy who has reached the age of 50 and decided to drop out, travel, and screw around.

He is giving up his job, he

says, because the world needs less works to keep on turning.

He has also given up his wife and taken a younger mistress. His wife, a civil servant who, in her spare time, tries to persuade Europe to give up a week's wages to feed the Third World, has taken a younger lover. "The world is going through its menopause," he says in what seems to be a rather subjective projection.

The play is boring because none of its protagonists faces a real choice. Instead we are presented with a torrent of verbosity. Wesker mistakes repetition for passion — his litany of escapist Shangri-La's sounds sadly like a list, a dutiful itinerary. And not one of the performances in Graham Watkin's production at the Leicester Phoenix conveyed to me a sense of exciting possibilities.

CARDIFF David Adams

Write On

THE MOST exciting theatrical event of the year in Cardiff has been not some major production but a fortnight of happenings organised by the imaginative Made In Wales Stage Company.

There have been plays on offer during this festival of new writing, and some very interesting and enjoyable ones, too, but the quite thrilling part of it all has been the transformation of the stage, functional space of the Sherman Theatre into a lively, creative, energetic centre where theatre has been discussed, worked at, shown, talked about and enjoyed not just in the Aron studio space but over food, over coffees and over pints. Never has there been such a buzz here, and it bodes well for the future of the newly established Sherman Theatre Company that will be working with Made In Wales.

The writers' workshops

SAISBURY Paul Lewis

Emma

IT IS universally acknowledged that a theatre in search of a box office winner should stage an adaptation of a classic novel. Sure enough, Jane Austen's Emma has produced full houses at the Salisbury Playhouse.

In terms of good stimulating theatre, to misquote Mrs Elton in Emma "one has no great hopes from adaptations. I always say there is something direful in the sound."

In fact, David Horlock, who also directs, has done a creditable job. The claustrophobia of Austen's microcosmic society comes across well as characters overlap their exits and entrances with the effect that they are always literally looking over each other's shoulders.

Literary style is not so easy to simulate in theatre. The Austen irony is replaced by an alienation effect

have quite obviously actually been useful to a very varied group of authors who have filled the Arena: the advice given and the process used by the Made In Wales directors and actors and their guests have been firmly rooted in the reality of modern theatre work.

As if to prove some of the points the performances put on by the company have used minimalist sets (part of designer Simon Benham's considerable contribution to the Festival) and limited castings (the first of which was shown in Gilly Dain's well-judged direction of Michael Stevens's Solitary Confinement, where the monologues from six actresses could easily have been either too flat or too emotive).

As it was each of them gave excellent performances as a lovesick home-work tied schoolgirl, an excited bride-to-be, a jittery wife, a wistful spinster, an ardent widow and her bugle and a defiant secretary on retirement day. This result was a delightful and sensitive piece that certainly had its faults but which provided a fair night's entertainment and an example for those who'd attended the workshops.

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A boy from Bethlehem

Me and Jesus, by Eleanor Spence (1985, Lion, £1.50), is an unexpected character, a deceptively simple story with mystical undertones which could easily have fallen into murkyishness. Spence is an Australian writer who has often been intrigued by the effect of a "different" child on those around him, but this time, rather abominably, the child is Jesus.

He is never overtly identified as such, but suddenly amidst rumours of scandal erupts with his parents into the life of the narrator, his cousin and later much-loved friend, who as an adult looks back at his family's history through their faded memories and inherited folklore.

It is a gently paced novel of childhood, told with affection and natural humour, whose satisfactions lie as

Stephanie Nettell reviews the new children's paperbacks

much in the portrayal of everyday life in a Middle Eastern country long ago as in the tensions of discovering Jesus's secret. I would, I think, be a stimulating fictional partner to such humanistic-based course books as Richard Hughes's *Nazareth and Jerusalem* (1984, Book 1 and 3 of A Primary Religious Education Course, Oxford, £2.75 each), which imaginatively evoke the life and customs of ancient Palestine through a prompting question-and-answer method and colourful illustrations (9-12).

Even more details of the two boys' days spring early to life in Jesus's Nazareth, Book 5 of Norman Bull's comprehensive *The Bible Story And Its Background*, long established but new with Books 2, 3 and 7, completely revised to take account of changing approaches to religious studies and to show "a greater sensitivity towards members of other faiths." Straight narrative information, interspersed with a wealth of illustrated details, is followed by fairly conventional class study suggestions. Most suited to the 10-12s, there is fascination here for anyone (1985/84, Hulton, £3.10 each).

Kids' London, by Elizabeth Holt and Molly Parker (1985, Piccolo, £2.50), has been making itself useful since 1972, but this new edition is better than ever. An astonishing range of activities and interests are listed alphabetically, from the unlikely (camp sites, orienteering) to the obvious and cross-referenced with addresses and travel information. Sensible advice, too, about getting lost, whom to approach and what to do in a crisis. Grand value for visitor and Londoner alike — we found it more helpful than the Yellow Pages for

"Comic acting at its finest" S.T.A.

Two into One

ANTON RODGERS **MICHAEL WILLIAMS**

MORAY WATSON **WANDA VENTHAM**

KATHY STAFF

Written and Directed by **RAY COONEY**

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After Telecom stand by for Thatcher's second lesson on people's capitalism



ECONOMICS NOTEBOOK

Victor Keegan

PRIVATISATION is back in high fashion. Abroad the seven leading industrialised nations will this week "privatise" the problem of what

they should do to generate economic growth as economic activity slows down. What they will do is nothing. They will leave it to the markets, a solution which, if it had been applied to the US economy in the first place would not have produced a recovery anything like as strong as what happened.

At home privatisation has appeared in the form of the denationalisation of British Gas. This is to be the Great British Public's second instalment of Mrs Thatcher's course in people's capitalism following the giveaway — sorry stunning success — of the privatisation of British Telecom.

Now there is a very strong argument that one of the things Britain needs is more capitalistic risk takers, whether in the private or public sectors. But it can also be argued that the very worst way to go about this is to sell off monopoly profits

machines like British Telecom or British Gas to provide a once and for all double-your-money overnight profit for the man in the street.

What the country desperately needs is more people willing to put down long-term risk capital in the hitherto areas of the future which may produce high profits (but equally high losses) in the years to come.

Give me a dozen Clive Sinclair's prepared to back their last shirt on their own ideas (only 20 per cent of which may be profitable) for every state monopoly denationalised, by inducing investors to buy shares in monopolies at bargain basement prices the government has created a quite false impression of what risk capitalism is all about. To make matters worse they have not even allocated a penny piece of the proceeds of the monopoly sales towards investing in

the hitherto growth areas of the future where private capital is reluctant to tread.

The privatisation of British Telecom was potty enough, but that of British Gas is in a class of its own.

If, for instance, there is another energy crisis which doubles or even quadruples the cost of oil, then the price of gas (always oil-related) will shoot up without necessarily any change in its cost, since gas is piped in from the North Sea. In such circumstances British Gas could either keep its prices stable, thereby generating an artificial (presumably) demand for its product. Or it will receive a huge windfall, rise in profits which will accrue to shareholders (as opposed to taxpayers) for completely fortuitous reasons.

British Gas is already, thanks to past oil price increases, so hugely profitable that it has not only extin-

guished its debts, but actually lends money to the Treasury, reversing the traditional banker-client role. This helps the borrowing requirement at present. Privatisation of British Gas (unlike those more typical public enterprises which have large borrowings) will thus worsen Treasury finances in the long run, once the temporary — favourable — impact of capital receipts from privatisation is exhausted.

The government would double its profits, while conceding that British Gas will still be a monopoly and so unable to benefit from more "competition" that it will nevertheless be able to pursue a more entrepreneurial course, once freed from government interference. This will involve an unqualified welcome from the board of BG which has been subjected to enormous interference ranging from pressure to put up its prices by more than it wanted to in

order to boost government income to constant threats to force BG to sell of its network of showrooms, which the corporation regards as essential to its operations.

But the biggest irony is that BG is the living proof that you did not need to be privatised to be entrepreneurially successful. BG has been highly successful, in partnership with the private sector in discovering oil and gas in the North Sea and onshore for the benefit of the taxpayer. The government forced the corporation to sell off its oil activities (now a private sector company called Enterprise Oil).

Moreover, the government also forced BG to sell off its onshore oil discovery in Dorset which would never have happened on the scale it did, but for the fact that BG insisted on going ahead with further drilling against the advice of its private sector partner, BP.

Will a newly privatised BG

now be allowed to resume oil exploration activities? It would be bizarre to privatise the company and then deny it the freedom to develop inherent in other private companies. But it would be equally bizarre to reinstate something which the government took away from BG on the grounds that it had no business to be involved in oil discoveries no matter how profitable they might be.

I suppose all this does lead itself to the perverse view that if governments deliberately interfere with the operations of public enterprises so that they are forced to be less efficient than otherwise then the absence of government might improve efficiency.

But, of course, you don't need to privatise in order to get the government off your back. BP, after all, was operated very efficiently for many years with the government as majority shareholder. Nor does it follow

that privatisation will keep the government at arms length.

Nor does it guarantee that a future government will not re-nationalise with all the in-sufficiency (as the chairman of ICI pointed out last week) that that brings. There is, of course, a middle way — the encouragement of genuinely mixed economy companies owned partly by government, partly by private investors and partly by their own employees.

Such companies would have a good chance of surviving elections and benefiting from so-called market pressures and the strategic thinking of government. When Japan privatises its telephone system it is done as part of a national strategy in which the government is intimately involved. In Britain, it is done to raise government cash. Future governments will have to live with the consequences.

Chambers of Commerce attack 'simplistic' policies

New demand for boost to industry

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Renewed pressure is being applied to the government from within the business community to take urgent steps to stimulate industry and create new jobs.

The latest plea comes from the Association of British Chambers of Commerce and reflects the growing unease within the business community over government economic and industrial policies. The association, reflecting nationwide business responses, has issued a grim warning of further decline in manufacturing industry and continuing job losses at a time of growing concern over government policies. It follows last week's stern remarks from two of Britain's most distinguished businessmen, the GEC chief, Lord Weinstock, and the ICI chairman, John Harvey-Jones, who publicly ridiculed government policies.

Lord Weinstock and Mr Har-

vey-Jones, two of the country's most senior and respected industrialists, dismissed as "absolute rubbish" the government belief that growth and development of service industries like tourism would compensate for the loss of production and jobs through the decline of manufacturing industry.

Their strong argument is given full support from the Chambers of Commerce who see no end to the decline. In so far as unpublished evidence to the Lords Select Committee examining the cause and effects of the decline, the association says: "Britain's manufacturing trade deficit has increased in increasing and shows no signs of diminishing, and this has made a direct contribution to the loss of industrial capacity and the loss of jobs."

There were, or had been, a "very large number of mistakes or omissions" in policy and administration. There was "considerable evi-

dence" to show what ministers were allowing the problem to drift and that the government had "very little idea of where job and wealth-creating production might arise."

The association also publishes an extract from a letter by the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, to support its claim that ministers were unconcerned. In the letter to the association on December 3, 1984, Mr Lawson wrote: "I cannot agree that there is any special cause for concern in a deficit in trade in manufactures."

For the first time since the Industrial Revolution, Britain is now showing a deficit on trade with the rest of the world in manufactured goods and products.

The association is as dismissive as Lord Weinstock and Mr Harvey-Jones of the government case that growth in service industries will meet the shortfall in manufacturing losses.

The majority of service industries were locally based and not exportable; a one per cent decline in manufacturing exports demanded a 3 per cent increase in service exports to compensate; and the growth of service exports was inextricably linked to the expansion of manufacturing exports.

"About one fifth of all service industry output has manufacturing industry as its customer and it is basically the wealth generated directly or indirectly by manufacturing industry that puts money in the pockets of the rest of the service industry's customers."

In dismissing the government's policies as "simplistic" the association says a series of urgent steps need to be taken. These include avoiding any sharp fluctuations in interest rates; a reduction in industry's costs; the promotion of pay restraint; and the encouragement of renewed investment in research and development facilities.

Gloomy IMF view of British economy

From Alex Brummer in Washington

THE International Monetary Fund expects Britain's economic performance over the next two years to lag behind that of other industrial countries according to a series of detailed forecasts released yesterday.

The IMF's World Economic Outlook says that growth in the British economy this year will not be enough to offset a further decline in the jobs which it expects to rise from 12.7 per cent in 1984 to 13 per cent this year. But a marginal improvement in Britain's employment picture is expected in 1986.

The report paints a rather more gloomy picture of Britain's prospects than the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson. Growth in the UK economy would be about 2.4 per cent this year and next — close to the level of 1984 — but output was severely affected by the miners' strike. While Britain's growth would be more or less in line with other big industrial countries this year, it would begin to fall below West Germany next year and would continue to lag the US and Japan.

The report, issued ahead of this week's seven-nation economic summit in Bonn, argues that the stickiness of growth and unemployment in Britain and other major European countries is the result of a series of structural rigidities in both the capital and labour markets.

There had been a marked ageing of capital stock in many industrial countries including Canada, the UK, France and West Germany as a result of a "significantly weakened" financial position in industry. Some of the blame for this "must lie with excessive subsidisation and protection of declining industries" which had been shielded from market pressures.

Indexed wages, introduced at the time of the price rises of the late 70s, are to blame for the slow improvement in unemployment.

Among the policy options explored are the elimination of regulations which affect productivity and efficiency, and emphasis on "market solutions" for industrial problems, and a reduction in the "social costs" of employment.

The report recommends a series of tax-based incentives, including a general reduction in the rates on profits and specific deductions aimed at rewarding capital investment or employment of displaced workers.

COMMODITIES

Robin Stainer

The International Tin Council, which regulates supplies of the metal, is confident that it has the market under control and can prevent a dramatic fall in prices. Doubts about this had been prompted by a drop in the price last week below the floor set under the tin pack to a seven-year low.

Such a fall has always been on the cards since the 22-nation ITC decided last month that the floor price — Malaysian \$29.15 a kilo on the Kuala Lumpur market — should no longer be sacrosanct. Currency market developments in the preceding months, in particular sterling's decline against the Malaysian dollar, were behind this unprecedented move.

The equivalent of the floor on the London Metal exchange — the other big trading centre for tin — had risen as sterling fell, but the ITC lacked sufficient resources to bring the market price up to this ever rising minimum. Even when LME tin reached its record of £10.285 a tonne in February it was still below the floor.

Consortium bid likely soon for Westland

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

A takeover bid for Britain's struggling helicopter manufacturer, Westland, from a consortium headed by Alan Bristow, founder of Bristol Helicopters, and Alan Curtis, one of the men behind the Lotus Cars resurgence, will materialise within the next few days.

Mr Bristow and Mr Curtis are understood to have won financial support from a number of institutions for their bid, and now have the funds guaranteed to allow them to make their offer.

This is not likely to be at a level much in excess of Westland's current market price of 140p a share, which puts a total value of \$83 million on the group.

If the consortium bid succeeds, Mr Bristow, whose Bristol Helicopters is now a subsidiary of British & Commonwealth Shipping, would take over the management control of Westland. There are indications that institutions which are already shareholders in Westland will be prepared to accept the consortium offer rather than risk the possibility of a helicopter group running deeper and deeper into debt.

Mr Bristow is understood to be in favour of retaining most of Westland's existing business, including its British Hovercraft Corporation subsidiary. But if the bid does suc-

ceed, there would certainly be sweeping changes among the group's top management and the danger of substantial redundancies within the 11,000 strong workforce, although the consortium is unlikely to institute any immediate programme of job losses on a large scale.

It now seems probable that Westland is not to gain an essential \$60 million order for its W30 helicopter for India and indeed, the future of the W30, the planned replacement for the Puma and Wessex troop-carriers, appears in serious jeopardy.

The Ministry of Defence has already secured an appeal from Westland for extra interim research funds for the W30, and has now also suggested that it will not itself be interested in buying the helicopter, which was scheduled to be in production in 1987.

Westland's mounting cash flow problems has led to a series of appeals to the Ministry of Defence over the group's ability to continue to fund the development of the EH101, the joint venture helicopter with the Italian firm, Augusta, designed as the replacement for the Sea King.

The ministry is known to believe it essential that the UK retain an independent helicopter manufacturing capacity, although it is not prepared to directly fund Westland, and for that reason, is expected to give its tacit support to the consortium bid.

Maxwell all set for cable TV switch on

By Maggie Brown

Mr Robert Maxwell's cable television company, British Cable Services, is about to start installing its advanced System 6 service in Guildford, Surrey, where it holds the franchise.

Mr Ian Harkness, the marketing director, confirmed that ratification was being sought to install the system to 2,000 homes, one tenth of the franchise area. The aim is to work during the summer and have services ready by next September.

It has already placed orders for a range of cable hardware for installation in homes with the Cambridge Electronic Industries subsidiary, Labgear Cables.

Applications close tomorrow for the next five cable franchise areas, and the Cable Television Association estimates that there is little competition with one bidder coming forward per franchise.

These are thought to be Cotswold Cable, for Gloucester and Cheltenham; Reed Cable & Vision for Bolton; Shaw Cable for Wandsworth; East London Communications for the London Docklands; and the London ECRS for West Surrey, the lush Farnham, Farnborough, Woking and Guildford areas next to Guildford.

Mr Maxwell has been rumoured as a surprise bidder for the London Docklands franchise.

Co-op approaches £1bn mark

By Clive Woodcock

In spite of difficult trading conditions in the past year, Britain's largest Co-op retailer, Co-operative Retail Services, raised its pre-tax profits by 11.6 per cent on sales which rose 11.3 per cent to take the society close to the £1 billion mark.

Turnover in 1984 rose by \$38 million to a record \$961 million which, after making adjustments for new and closed shops amounted to an increase double the rise in the relevant price index. The soci-

ety earned profits of £14.7 million, an increase of £1.5 million on the previous year.

Announcing the results today, the chief executive, Mr Bill Farrow, said that with the society's financial restructuring, management reorganisation and stores redevelopment programme, all well under way, progress should be maintained and accelerated.

CRS, which has more than 800 supermarkets and shops in England and Wales, could now "start to flex its muscles

again for the future," Mr Farrow added.

The society is currently undergoing a major reorganisation of its management structure, involving the progressive integration of its 12 existing regions to form six trading sectors, with trading operations controlled from the national office in Manchester.

Borrowings have fallen, with loan capital repayments during the year of more than \$24 million, while major CRS regions, Yorkshire and South West Wales,

city has been able to transfer £15.4 million to reserves compared with \$6 million last year.

"The society's financial strength is perhaps best demonstrated by noting that reserves now equate to almost 80 per cent of share capital as against only 47 per cent two years ago."

Trading conditions were affected by the mining dispute, which adversely affected sales in two major CRS regions, Yorkshire and South West Wales.



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Financial Highlights 1984

Capital Fund	US \$ 1,008 million
Deposits	US \$ 10,512 million
Loans and Advances	US \$ 5,153 million
Total Assets	US \$ 14,348 million
Profit before Tax	US \$ 277 million
Capital/Assets Ratio	exceeds 7%
Branches and Offices in	70 Countries

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Bahamas	Gabon	Niger	Swaziland	
Bahrain	Germany (West)	Korea (South)	Nigeria	Switzerland
Bangladesh	Ghana	Kuwait	Oman	Thailand
Barbados	Gibraltar	Lebanon	Pakistan	Togo
Botswana	Grand Cayman	Liberia	Panama	Turkey
Brazil	Hong Kong	Luxembourg	Paraguay	UAE
Cameroon	India	Macau	Philippines	United Kingdom
Canada	Indonesia	Malaysia	Portugal	Uruguay
China	Ile of Man	Maldives	Senegal	USA
Colombia	Italy	Mauritius	Seychelles	Venezuela
Cyprus	Ivory Coast	Monaco	Sierra Leone	Yemen (North)
Djibouti	Jamaica	Morocco	Spain	Zambia
Egypt	Japan	Netherlands	Sri Lanka	Zimbabwe

Labour unveils jobs plan for West Midlands

By David Simpson

The Labour Party's jobs and industry campaign, designed to persuade the electorate that the Opposition has a viable policy for reducing unemployment, will be taken a step further today by Neil Kinnock when he unveils a regional plan for the West Midlands.

The plan will be the first in a series of policy documents concentrating on Labour proposals for regenerating jobs and industry in those areas which have been worst hit by depression and unemployment.

In today's document, the Labour Party points out that the West Midlands, once the heart of Britain's manufacturing base, has an unemployment rate three per cent above the national average with 300,000 workers in the region having lost their jobs since the Conservative's came to power.

Not only did almost 1,300 West Midlands businesses go bankrupt in 1984 alone, but the government was refusing to intervene to stop jobs being

lost in the 25 large groups which together provide almost half the total employment in the area.

Among these is British Leyland, the largest element in the local motor industry, which accounts for over seven per cent of all manufacturing jobs in the West Midlands.

The Labour plan attacks the government proposals to cut off funds from BL and later to privatise the group, claiming that instead it must be left within the public sector and supplied with adequate funding to allow it to make sufficient technological advances to keep abreast of foreign competitors.

Hinting strongly that a future Labour government will introduce selective import controls, the West Midlands regional plan argues that BL needs a 30 per cent market share of UK car sales if it is to survive, and that this means that imports must be pruned back from the present 56 per cent level to their 1978 market share of 45 per cent.

Boom for free papers

By our Financial Staff

At least ten big British cities could have their own free daily newspaper within the next five years, the editor of Britain's first free daily said yesterday.

Mr David Scott, the editor of Birmingham's Daily News, the first free daily newspaper, said the paper launched last October, told the spring conference of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors in Guernsey that he expected other similar operations to spring up.

The effect on regional paid-for papers could be "catastrophic" unless the regional press lowered its cost base substantially. The Birmingham Daily News was hoping to break even by the end of this year and Mr Scott hinted that those behind the venture were already considering the launch of further titles.

The new national paper planned by the free newspaper publisher, Mr Eddie Shah, could itself eventually be free, Mr Shah told the conference.

Tin prices brought under control

COMMODITIES

Robin Stainer

For more than a year, the Kuala Lumpur price, which had been at the floor for nearly all of the period, maintained a substantial premium over London. Traders and users inevitably bought where it was cheaper, leaving the ITC, which controls the market through intervention buying by its buffer stock and export quotas imposed on its six producer members, with no one to buy.

But while making these necessary purchases to stop the floor from being breached, the ITC was selling in London to provide a regular inflow of cash. A parity between the two markets was eventually seen as essential to avoid these loss-making operations. It was briefly achieved earlier this month, thanks largely to the pound's sharp recovery. In fact, for a time, London moved back to a premium under the Kuala Lumpur price came off the floor.

Sterling's renewed decline last week, however, once again changed the picture and the price in the East moved back to a premium under which it has maintained despite falling to a seven-year low.

last week's decline did come as a surprise, triggering some nervous selling in London, which brought the market down to a eight-month low of just under \$3,500.

Analysts and officials from ITC producing countries maintain that a realistic assessment of the market appears to offer little scope for a runaway fall in prices. Last week's developments are seen as little more than representing a tactical withdrawal and the ITC's flexibility over defence of the floor price as a sign of strength, not weakness.

The ITC is still prepared to provide support in both markets for tin, and its bankers have too much at stake to cut off funds now. If they did, prices would almost certainly collapse and their collateral, in the shape of the ITC's stocks, would be massively devalued.

Financed by direct contributions from member governments and loans, the ITC bought up the vast bulk of the world's surplus tin in its defence of a minimum price, thereby ensuring a return on sales probably double what it would otherwise be. As a result, producers were about \$500 million better off last year.

This control of the world's stocks at a time when exports are being limited to 90 per

cent of normal by quotas puts the ITC in a very strong position. Anyone who gambled on the contrary could get their fingers burned, according to market experts. The ITC is in no danger of being under, they say, especially now that commercial demand for the metal, which dropped to a 20-year low in 1983 during the recession, is rising.

With demand now running above supply, the ITC has been able to sell stockpiled metal to meet the deficit, which it forecasts at 13,500 tonnes for the first half of this year.

Other problems that have made the ITC job difficult in recent years are also far Eastern producers have reduced the volume of metal exports. There are hopes, too, that the US will, abide by its gentlemen's agreement with Indonesia to restrict its sales to the market of stockpiled metal and that Brazil, which is not an ITC member, will temper the level of its exports.

It has been reported that Brazil, which has emerged as a significant producer within the only an 8 per cent rise in exports this year, after 50 per cent increase in 1984,

Moving a bit too fast for City critics

Michael Ashcroft turned Hawley group into a brokers' favourite. Andrew Cornelius meets him

BUSINESS PEOPLE

AT 39 years of age Michael Ashcroft is one of the better known company chairmen in the City. Not everyone is a fan, but it is still a surprising feat given that six years ago he could count on the fingers of one hand the number of people he knew in the Square Mile. Today, Hawley Group, the bombed-out camping equipment company which he rescued from threatened receivership in 1978, is firmly established as one of the top 200 companies in the United Kingdom and never seems far from the sharp end of the City action.

The £400 million-a-year Hawley empire embraces Alpine double-glazing, Dolphin Showers, Koken kitchens and an unlikely portfolio of investments in companies like Miss World, Henlys, and Pineapple Dance Studios. Mr Ashcroft won few friends last year by moving control of the group from London to Bermuda. He has also suffered because some of the more conservative influences in the City believe that he has moved too fast too soon. The most cynical observers claim that he has modelled himself on Jim Slater, and that like Slater, the classic success story will end in tears.

Mr Ashcroft is losing patience with UK cynics who, he argues, are too ready to knock success. He does not accept that Hawley has an image problem. "We don't have a problem with those people who know me, or understand the business," he says. The snide comments tended to come from people who either did not have the time, ability, or inclination to find how the Hawley group worked.

This week Mr Ashcroft and his fellow directors are going on the road to give shareholders the opportunity to find out more about the group. When Hawley announced that it was moving domicile to Bermuda, Mr Ashcroft pledged to keep faith with UK investors by arranging the meetings. Today, the Hawley roadshow (complete with 45-minute video on how

the group works) opens in Edinburgh. Tomorrow it is Manchester and on Wednesday London.

Hawley will also continue to produce an annual report which meets UK company reporting requirements and later this year is committed to seeking a stock market listing in New York where the reporting requirements are tougher than in Britain.

Mr Ashcroft's meteoric rise would delight Mrs Thatcher. He earned £100,000 a year, has a £10 million plus paper fortune, and properties in the UK and US. He travels by Concorde to business meetings in the US, and to UK meetings in a helicopter loaned by his business associate, David Wickens, the flamboyant head of the British Car Association group and a friend of the Thatchers.

And it all started from "nowt". Armed with a grammar school education and an RND in business studies the young Ashcroft had no idea what he wanted to do. He joined the Rothmans cigarette group as a management trainee in 1967 and spent what he describes as "the two most boring years of my life" there. Then he moved to Pritchards, the cleaning business, and spent three years more fruitfully working in a department which was created to identify new acquisitions.

By this time Mr Ashcroft knew that he would have to strike out alone if he was to achieve anything in life, so he quit Pritchards, borrowed a copy of Yellow Pages, and began telephoning companies offering his services as a consultant. He reckons he contacted 2,000 companies in this way and he was rewarded with some money-spinning consultancy contracts.

His big break came when he negotiated the takeover of a tiny cleaning company, with a handful of employees. He used his knowledge of the business gained at Pritchards to win new contracts and identify acquisitions. At the same time he improved the company cash flow by squeezing cash from debtors and stringing out payments to creditors. Within four years the business employed 4,000 people and had a turnover of £4 million a year.



Michael Ashcroft: 'business should be fun'

In 1977 Mr Ashcroft sold out for £1.3 million to Beckett & Colman, but had to promise that he would not move back into industrial services for at least two years. Back at home again he began the search for a publicly quoted shell company which he could use as the vehicle to build the bigger business empire he craved. The search ended when he identified Hawley, a tiny camping equipment company with 12 stores in the Midlands, which was close to receivership. Some deft negotiations with the Hawley bankers and the family owners gave him 25 per cent of a company which had lost money in seven of the previous nine years.

In year one Hawley achieved pre-tax profits of £22,000. Last year Hawley made pre-tax profits of £31.4 million, and brokers are now predicting pre-tax profits of £40 million plus from the fast growing group in 1985.

He admits to studying the tactics adopted by Jim Slater, Tiny Rowland, Lord Hanson, Sir Owen Green. "You can learn from everyone," he says. But people conveniently forget that he was also an avid student of management. First and foremost he and the other so-called City wheeler-dealers were managers, and good ones at that.

The Ashcroft management style is informal. If the Hawley board is together in New York then they meet. Otherwise they are in almost constant contact by telephone. He also believes that business should be fun. People

don't always want to be serious to get the adrenalin flowing. They want to be able to laugh and joke and see the funny side of things."

Ashcroft claims that he is not motivated by money. "Money is merely one measure of success. I would work just as hard if that measure was tidilywinks." But what about the huge salary and lucrative stock options?

"I am not a philanthropist, and I am merely paid the market rate for my job." Again, he reminds his critics that he did not draw a salary from Hawley before 1981 and lived from his own personal wealth. He maintains that the business is a great challenge. The ultimate challenge is the US. Mr Ashcroft already spends several months there each year and in 1983 chalked up a record 21 return trips across the Atlantic. He is attracted by the American enthusiasm for business and success, which just does not exist in the UK.

"What is the ultimate goal? That's a difficult question. But we are an ambitious crowd."

Secretly though, Mr Ashcroft seems to want to be accepted by the City establishment, if only to prove the cynics wrong. But he is prepared to wait for that triumph. In the meantime he has the comfort of knowing that the leading brokers and institutions are hungry to buy Hawley shares. He concluded the interview by handing over the latest brokers' circulars on Hawley earmarking the shares as "a buy."

Solicitors in need of a legal eagle

CONSUMER COLUMN

A MARKET research survey carried out recently for the National Consumer Council showed an overwhelming preference among the public for independent investigation of complaints against solicitors.

People's evidence suggested a deep well of discontent with the present system under which complaints can be made to the Law Society, or ultimately pursued through the courts.

"Many people feel inhibited by their lack of legal knowledge, the risk of further financial loss, their ignorance of the system as a whole," the NCC comments. "Even when they did find out about the complaints mechanism, they were more likely to be put off by its complexity or made suspicious by its apparent unfairness."

The NCC points out that many complaints are almost certainly unjustified. Many complainants are aggrieved at the "substance and procedures of the law itself" and others have more serious reasons for themselves. A great many of the apparent problems between solicitors and their clients arise because of the solicitors' failure to explain matters clearly.

Clients whose attempts to pursue complaints through the Law Society have failed "have often the greatest difficulty in understanding and accepting the distinction between misconduct and negligence," the Council found. Being referred to a solicitor or the Law Society's negligence panel does not provide redress for a client. Claims for damages or other redress have to be pursued through the courts. Yet many people are reluctant to pursue a second round of further legal action, delays, or just because they cannot afford to do so.

The general level of unhappiness among solicitors' clients is hard to gauge exactly. The NCC estimates that around 15 per cent of the adult population consults a solicitor each year. Earlier surveys have found that while two clients out of every three are happy with the service they receive, one in eight is dissatisfied and one in 16 "expresses strong dissatisfaction."

On this basis, there could be a third of a million people in England and Wales who every year "express strong dissatisfaction" with the way their solicitor has handled their affairs.

The Benson Commission on Legal Services found, when it studied the matter in detail, that in 1977 by far the greatest number of complaints were about solicitors failing to give sufficient interest, failing to do enough on a client's behalf, or taking too long to do it. Much less common were allegations of actual mistakes or even over-charging, and accusations of malpractice accounted for only 1 per cent of all complaints.

Citizens' Advice Bureau have also looked closely from time to time at the complaints they receive about solicitors. Here, lack of communication from solicitor to client has topped the list of reasons for grievance, followed closely by incompetence. A sample of 10 CABS in the South of England received 142 complaints about solicitors in a random three month period during which these were logged.

The Law Society does not publish a statistical breakdown of complaints it receives and does not normally investigate complaints of incompetence or negligence or anything else which falls short of misconduct, and so were not investigated.

The NCC concludes firmly that effective machinery is needed to investigate complaints and determine which are justified and which are not, and that any such new system should seek to win the public confidence.

The Law Society will soon have a power under the Administration of Justice Bill to deal with complaints of inadequate professional services, and to order remission of fees, although not to award compensation.

But this will not go far enough to win public confidence, the National Consumer Council believes. It suggests an independent body, perhaps Legal Council, with roughly equal numbers of lay and solicitor members. This Council could appoint a Legal Ombudsman, possibly more than one, to handle complaints from consumers more accessibly and impartially than the Law Society does at present.

A new standard of "quality of service" should be defined and enforced, based on the legal obligation to the Supply of Goods and Services Act of 1982 on all purveyors of services to act "with reasonable care and skill."

Rosemary Collins

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

Ministry of Energy and Chemical and Petrochemical Industries

NATIONAL OIL WELL COMPANY

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL TO TENDER

No. 9106.AY/DIV

The National Oil Well Company (ENTP) is launching a National and International Call to Tender for the supply of

Lot No. 1: PORTABLE COLUMN DRILLS

Lot No. 2: TRIMMING MACHINES

Lot No. 3: MILL WHEELS

This invitation to Tender is addressed solely to production companies — amalgamations, company representatives and other intermediaries being excluded, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 78-02 of 11th February, 1978, concerning the state monopoly on foreign trade.

Companies interested in this Invitation to Tender may obtain specifications on payment of 400 Algerian dinars, from the following address: Entreprise Nationale des Travaux aux Puits, Direction des Approvisionnements, 16 Route de Meftah, Oued Smar, El-Harrach, Alger, Algeria — as from the publication date of this notice.

Tenders drawn up in five (5) copies, should be sent in double-sealed and registered packet, to the Secretariat of the Direction Approvisionnements at the above address.

The outer envelope must be anonymous, carrying no marking except the endorsement: 'Appel d'offres National et International No. 9106.AY/DIV Confidentiel — a ne pas Ouvrir'.

Tenders must arrive by noon on Saturday, 15th June, 1985 at the latest.

The option period shall be 180 days as from the closing date of this Invitation to Tender.

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHEMICAL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

NATIONAL OIL WELL COMPANY

(ENTREPRISE NATIONALE DES TRAVAUX AUX PUITES)

NOTICE OF UNRESTRICTED INTERNATIONAL CALL TO TENDER NO. 09093.AY/MF

THE NATIONAL OIL WELL COMPANY (ENTP) IS LAUNCHING AN INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER OPEN TO ALL COMPETITORS, FOR THE PROVISION OF:

- LOT 1 DRILL COLLARS
- LOT 2 ROTARY TABLE 27 1/2" x 17 1/2"
- LOT 3 CENTRIFUGAL MUD PUMPS
- CENTRIFUGAL WATER PUMPS
- ELECTRICAL PUMPS FOR WATER

This invitation to tender is addressed solely to Production Companies, amalgamations, company representatives and other intermediaries being excluded in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 78-02 of 11 February 1978, concerning the state monopoly on foreign trade.

Companies interested in this Call to Tender may obtain specifications on payment of the sum of four hundred (400) Algerian Dinars, from the following address:

ENTREPRISE NATIONALE DES TRAVAUX AUX PUITES (ENTP)
DIRECTION DES APPROVISIONNEMENTS
16 ROUTE DE MEFTAH
OUED SMAR
EL HARRACH, ALGER, ALGERIA

As from the publication date of this notice.

Offers drawn up in five (05) copies should be sent in double sealed and registered packet to the Secretariat de la Direction Approvisionnements at the above address.

The outer envelope must be anonymous, carrying no marking except the endorsement 'Appel a la Concurrence International Ouvert, Numero 09093.AY/MF — Confidentiel — a ne pas Ouvrir'.

The closing date for receipt of offers is set at 45 days as from the publication date of this notice.

Companies will be held by their offers for 180 days after the closing date of this invitation to tender.

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHEMICAL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

NATIONAL OIL WELL COMPANY

(ENTREPRISE NATIONALE DES TRAVAUX AUX PUITES)

NOTICE OF UNRESTRICTED INTERNATIONAL CALL TO TENDER NO. 09092.AY/MF

THE NATIONAL OIL WELL COMPANY (ENTP) IS LAUNCHING AN INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER OPEN TO ALL COMPETITORS, FOR THE PROVISION OF:

- LOT NO. 1 WASHOVER PIPE
- LOT NO. 2 MUD PUMP PRESSURE GAUGE
- PUMP SPEED INDICATORS
- R.P.M. ROTARY SPEED METER
- LOT NO. 3 WEIGHT INDICATORS
- LOT NO. 4 COMPLETE MANUAL TONGS FOR DRILL COLLAR, DRILL PIPE AND CASING
- LOT NO. 5 2-3/4 x 132" - 350T WELDLESS LINK
- LOT NO. 6 DRILL PIPE ELEVATORS
- LOT NO. 7 ROTARY SLIPS FOR DRILL PIPES 5" & 3 1/2"
- LOT NO. 8 PIN DRIVE ROLLER KELLY PUSHING AND SQUARE DRIVE ROLLER KELLY PUSHING
- LOT NO. 9 ROTATING AND CIRCULATING HEAD
- LOT NO. 10 LOWER KELLY GUARD VALVE
- LOT NO. 11 FISHING TOOLS
- LOT NO. 12 AUTOLOCK SAFETY JOINT
- LOT NO. 13 HYDRAULIC ROCK BIT UNDERREAMER
- LOT NO. 14 CHECK VALVE
- LOT NO. 15 UPPER KELLY COCKS

This invitation to tender is addressed solely to production companies, amalgamations, company representatives and other intermediaries being excluded in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 78-02 of 11 February 1978, concerning the state monopoly on foreign trade.

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as from the publication date of this notice.

Offers drawn up in five (05) copies should be sent in double sealed and registered packet to the Secretariat de la Direction Approvisionnements at the above address.

The outer envelope must be anonymous, carrying no marking except the endorsement 'appel a la concurrence international ouvert, numero 09092.AY/MF — confidentiel — a ne pas ouvrir'.

The closing date for receipt of offers is set at 45 days as from the publication date of this notice.

Companies will be held by their offers for 180 days after the closing date of this invitation to tender.

This advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to apply for or purchase any of the shares to be offered. Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the Ordinary Share capital of the Company, issued and to be issued, to be admitted to the Official List ("Listing").



COLOROLL GROUP PLC

(Incorporated and registered in England under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981 No. 1898197)

Offer for Sale

by
Charterhouse Japhet plc
of

13,500,000 Ordinary Shares of 10p each at 135p per share
payable in full on application

Authorized	Share capital (Subject to Listing)	Issued or to be issued
£4,000,000	In Ordinary Shares of 10p each	£2,725,000

The Group's principal business is the design and marketing of wallcoverings and soft furnishings for the international home fashion market. The Group is involved in the manufacture of wallcoverings and packaging products and sub-contracts the manufacture of its textile ranges. The Group includes companies operating in the UK, the United States and Australia.

The application list will open at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 2nd May, 1985 and may be closed at any time thereafter.

Copies of the Offer for Sale which comprises Listing Particulars (on the terms of which, alone, applications will be considered) with application forms, will be available from 29th April, 1985 from—

Charterhouse Japhet plc
1 Paternoster Row,
St. Pauls, London EC4M 7DH

Barrett House,
53 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AN

Rowe & Pimman
1 Finsbury Avenue,
London EC2M 2PA

and from the following branches of Lloyds Bank Plc—

Registrar's Department,
Jame Section,
P.O. Box 1000,
61 Moorgate,
London EC2R 6BL

Birmingham,
125 Colmore Row

Bristol,
55 Can Street

Burkley,
57 Haggraves Street

Cardiff,
27 High Street

Edinburgh,
115/115 George Street

Glasgow,
12 Bowdwell Street

Leeds,
P.O. Box 96, 57 Park Row

Manchester,
53 King Street

The Offer for Sale which comprises Listing Particulars is published, with application forms, in today's Financial Times and Daily Telegraph.

Starkey stands by to ride Dafayna

D RACING

Richard Baerlein

The Guardian Classic Trial at Sandown on Saturday, coupled with events in Ireland, have tended to advance the confidence behind Shaded for Saturday's 2,000 Guineas sponsored by General Accident.

Ladbrokes have priced Shaded at 11/10 after reports of a good gallop yesterday but 5/4 is the offer. Trainer, Michael Stoute, has not made a decision on who will ride Shaded in the 2,000 Guineas but he says Greville Starkey would be standing by to partner Dafayna in the 1,000 Guineas.

Damier, six lengths behind Shaded in the Craven Stakes, made all the running to win the Guardian race by a length from Petroski with Gallant Archer four lengths back in third.

The winner was the only one to have raced this season and the time, 5.02 seconds above standard, was no advertisement for the form.

Steve Causton told the trainer he thought his charge would get a mile and a half

but the trainer was left in some doubt.

For a horse from a stable which has yet to have a winner, Petroski ran a good race. In fact, he probably had a harder time than Willie Carson would have liked, for he looked exhausted after the saddle had been removed. I suspect he will have a similar preparation to try, who went for the Predominant Stakes at Goodwood after winning this trial.

Petroski could easily gain a place in the Derby and 20-1 each-way would look good should anything happen to Shaded, but quoted at 4-1 with Ladbrokes for the River Ready sponsored race.

River Mist disqualified in French Guineas

No Pass No Sale, the odds-on favourite, ridden by Yves St-Martin, and one of three runners saddled by Roger Collet for the French 2,000 Guineas at Longchamp yesterday, was awarded the race on the disqualification of one of the second favourites, River Mist, at 3-1, who scored by three-quarters of a length.

River Mist, ridden by Patrick Biancone's star apprentice, Eric Legris, was pulled out from behind three horses two furlongs from home, seriously hampering Synofes. He paid nearly 5-1 a place, and ran a good race considering the ground was really too firm for him.

My Volga Boatman, who began last season as a possible Derby contender when

Gallant Archer hit his head on the stalls and came back streaming blood from the mouth. He moved up to challenge soon after entering the straight but back of a race then told. He could meet the winner again in the Mecca Dante.

The first three in the Guardian race made 350,000 dollars, 90,000 and 41,000 dollars respectively, so it would appear that Lady Beaverbrook with Petroski has the best bargain to date.

The Whitbread Gold Cup never fails to provide excitement and once again it was only by a rapidly decreasing neck that Robert Earnshaw on By The Way,

held last Saturday's Scottish Grand National winner, Andromeda, who found the distance just too short.

Having seen her son, Michael's Letocha so narrowly beaten by Special Cargo in last year's race, it was with some relief that Monica Dickinson heard the result over the Tannoy. Few had any doubt her well-handicapped horse had held on and she certainly deserved this victory.

It will now be a close race between Fred Wintew and Monica Dickinson as to who will win the trainers' list for the National Hunt season.

Earnshaw had the winner first or second throughout

and his enterprising tactics played a decisive part from the last fence, which he crossed five lengths clear of the rapidly improving Andromeda.

The ground firmed so rapidly on the chasing course that I was sure the connections of the soft ground performer West Tip did not withdraw him. He was still made favourite but the danger of doing such a fine prospect injury, was very real. He ran a great race to finish fifth, making ground throughout the last mile.

In Ireland Vincent O'Brien's one-time Derby favourite Leading Counsel, was beaten two lengths by Dermot Weld's Theatrical, ridden by Lester Piggott. Theatrical, yet another winning offspring of Nureyev was receiving 8/1.

He had won his only race last season and until Saturday he had not considered him a Derby possible. Corals offered the best Derby price of 16-1, while Hills offered Leading Counsel, once down to 7-1, at 16-1.

The Vincent O'Brien team does not appear to have fully recovered from their recent minor indisposition. The trainer will take his place in the line-up.

RICHARD BAERLEIN'S SELECTIONS: Nap: DIVISIMA (4.30 Warwick). Next best: AL NYADH (3.30 Warwick).



Mrs Louise Gibbins, wife of Guardian Chairman Peter Gibbins, presents the Guardian Classic Trial trophy to James Delahougue, racing manager to Khalid Abdulla, who owns the winner, Damier. Picture by Kenneth Saunders

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KILTS ALL ROUND: The Queen reviews some of the 1,000 Queen's Scouts in a St George's Day parade at Windsor Castle yesterday, when Burma Star veterans (centre) gathered at the Cenotaph in London for a remembrance service. Right: The Prince of Wales, wearing the uniform of the Gordon Highlanders, laying wreaths with the Italian foreign minister, Giulio Andreotti, at the Ardo military cemetery yesterday.

Thatcher anxious to meet Soviet leader

By Colin Brown, Political Staff

Mrs Thatcher yesterday raised the prospect of a meeting with the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, at the UN session in September. She emphasised the need for more East-West exchanges to assist the arms reductions talks.

Questioned on a phone-in programme broadcast live by the BBC World Service, the Prime Minister reaffirmed her view, given after Mr Gorbachev's recent visit to Britain before he became leader, that he was someone she could "do business with."

Mrs Thatcher's remarks on the Soviet leader, compared with her defence of President Reagan's star wars policy, will be seen as part of an effort by the Government to limit any diplomatic damage which might have been done by the expulsion of five alleged Soviet spies last week and to continue with a united approach to arms talks.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of more contacts between leaders of East and West in improving understanding between the two sides which she said shared the common goal of preventing global war.

Describing her earlier talks with Mr Gorbachev, she said: "He was very reasonable, very self-confident and very self-assured but very willing to debate and discuss in the way we would."

She added: "I don't know whether I will be going to the UN at the same time. Obviously I have been asked to take advantage of an occasion to meet him again. Yes, I do believe I can do business with him — you often have to do business with people you disagree with."

However, Mrs Thatcher said the West should not expect any change in policy by the Soviet Union, despite its new leadership.

She also defended President Reagan's policy of continuing research on star wars technology, emphasising that it was entirely a defensive system which, if perfected, would have to be negotiated before it could be deployed.

Mrs Thatcher also repeated her intention of seeking a third term in office. She said her greatest admiration was for Winston Churchill. She said later: "Winston became prime minister when he was 66 and presidents have been very successful over 70, so I hope to go on. I really think I would like to carry the policies forward."

"We have changed many attitudes. You only have to look when trade unionists are voluntarily retooling their ballots — that shows how much attitudes have changed. I want to go on a third time."

Mrs Thatcher brushed aside criticism that she had overreached herself with her Far East tour and told a 65-year-old woman in France that she had no secret to offer about her energy and no secret diet. "I was born fit and I was brought up to work extremely hard."

She also strenuously defended her espousal of Victorian values.

Mrs Thatcher said she would "love to go on being Prime Minister" and said she had no greater aspiration, but she did appear to use the royal "we" when she referred to her loss of voice in Sri Lanka. "We managed to deliver a 45 minute speech," she said.

Soldiers escape as IRA shells army post

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

British soldiers escaped injury early yesterday when their observation post close to the border with the Irish Republic came under mortar fire.

The IRA fired a total of eight mortar shells in the direction of the post, near Jonesborough, South Armagh, which overlooks the Belfast to Dublin railway line. Three shells exploded, but missed their intended target.

At least one missile detonated close to the firing point, a trailer parked behind an unoccupied house 350 yards from the post. Windows of an occupied house nearby were shattered.

The mortars, steel tubes tied together to form a battery and mounted on a platform, were the same design as those used in the attack on Newry police station this year when nine officers were killed.

After that attack, the IRA claimed it had perfected the weapon, although security specialists were adamant that the loss of life owed more to chance than calculated accuracy and expertise, a view which appears to be borne out by this latest incident.

Wright camp says retiring leader backs Todd

Evans 'unfairly dictating terms' of new TGWU poll

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

Mr Moss Evans was accused last night of trying unfairly to dictate the terms of the new election of his successor as general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The backers of Mr George Wright, who challenged the original election of Mr Ron Todd, believe that Mr Evans is openly backing Mr Todd, and that such favouritism is unfitting the man who has to act as chief scrutineer.

The Wright camp is bitter over a proposed national newspaper advertisement intended to give the reasons for the re-run, but which will include last week's letter from Mr Todd to the union executive insisting that the ballot be held again to clear the union's name.

Mr Wright, the Welsh regional secretary, is asking that his own earlier letter outlining his request for a further ballot be printed alongside that of Mr Todd.

Mr Todd said last night that the publication of his letter was simply intended to help inform the membership on the background to the executive's

decision last week to call a second ballot.

He said: "The executive were not intending to hold a second ballot on the basis of the evidence and allegations of irregularities."

"It was my insistence that I would not take up the post without a re-run which brought about the decision to hold a ballot."

Mr Todd's letter reads in part: "You will appreciate that over the last four weeks I have thought long on the crisis that is facing the union, and I believe there is clearly a situation in which certain factions within our union are lending themselves to the attacks by sections of the press."

"As a consequence, whatever the outcome of the executive council's examination, I believe that pre-requisite to assuming leadership of our union, namely the confidence, trust and unity of the membership, has been badly damaged."

"Unfortunately, however innocent any individuals may emerge from any enquiry, a cloud will continue to hang over the union in the future. I am convinced therefore that there is no course other than to hold a fresh ballot."

"It is not my desire or intention to take over the responsibilities with an atmosphere of suspicion prevailing in many regions, and I would hope that the executive council will take into account not only the wider implications of what has occurred, but also my own personal beliefs."

Mr Wright's camp does not accept that the inclusion of Mr Todd's letter in an advertisement is intended as a simple piece of documentation of the reasons for the re-run.

Mr Wright intends to write to newspaper editors asking them to publish his own letter, if Mr Todd's alone is placed in the advertisement.

Mr Wright is also angry with Mr Evans for stating that neither candidate must criticise union policy. Mr Wright is increasingly regarding himself as the little man up against the union machine and is certain to oppose such restrictions on his campaign. He is likely to take the opportunity of this week's Welsh TUC — which Mr Todd will also be attending — to spell out his beliefs.

Mr Todd said he would not be altering his diary to undertake a special campaign.

The ballot will last from May 13 to June 7. The result will be declared on June 15.

Nod from NCCL for aid to rightwing

Continued from page one

It was proposed by Ms Patricia Hewitt, former NCCL general secretary, who said the organisation was a broad coalition, and that a new organisation had been tried before but failed.

The meeting also welcomed the establishment last week of the all-party Parliamentary Civil Liberties Group, backed the principle of equal access to education and public services, and approved a variety of reforming resolutions on the penal system, the security services, the Government's immigration policies, Northern Ireland, and women's rights.

But most time and feeling was spent on advice policy and the miners' strike. The meeting attracted high interest from trade unions affiliated to the NCCL, and a resolution was passed criticising the Government, the police, and the courts over the miners' strike.

A resolution saying "any person has the right to choose whether or not to join, or to remain a member of, a trade union" was withdrawn by its proposer, Mr Tony Smythe, an former NCCL general secretary.

On advice policy, Mr Ivan Goffey said: "We have to fight the corner of all those who are oppressed, even if we find them disgusting."

But Mr Stephen Sedley said that racial minorities would see the NCCL as hypocrites if they gave aid to the National Front and Ms Melissa Benn said that black members and black NCCL staff would be alienated.

Another member said: "The NF don't seriously want advice, they just want to embarrass us, and they've succeeded. There are much more powerful bodies threatening civil liberties than the NF."

Eleven die

Eleven elderly people have died from a flu virus in the Staffordshire District General Hospital over the past 10 days, health officials said yesterday.

General admissions are limited to serious cases until the outbreak has been contained.

Skinner claims vendetta after ban on meeting

By Susan Tirbott

Police yesterday stopped a public political meeting at which Mr Dennis Skinner, the Labour MP for Bolsover, was to have spoken.

It was organised by a miners' welfare club in his constituency, and the MP describes the police action as a vendetta because of the miners' strike.

The meeting at Plesley miners' welfare club in Derbyshire in support of Labour candidates in Thursday's county council elections, was arranged and advertised for 11am yesterday. Similar meetings had been held there for the past 20 years, officials said yesterday.

But on Saturday the local police inspector told the club's officials that their own rules outlawed meetings being held on the premises before noon, and they should not go ahead.

Inspector Andrew Hardy, of Shirebrook police station, said he had examined the club's rules and pointed out to the secretary that the licence certificate granted by local magistrates did not approve meetings being held before noon on Sundays.

His suggestion that the meeting should be held in the club's car park was rejected, and the meeting was cancelled.

Mr Skinner, who was to have spoken for the Labour county council candidate at the meeting, said police in the area had never let up since the strike.

"Obviously they don't like me — I called them Mrs Thatcher's private army. It's a vendetta," the MP said.

He said he had been attending meetings in the club for the 15 years since he had been an MP with no trouble from the police. It had not been planned to open the bar for the meeting.

Inspector Hardy refused to comment on why he had decided to scrutinise the club's rules this year, or how he had learned that the meeting was planned for 11am.

Local police liaison meetings with the Plesley parish council have been suspended since the beginning of the miners' strike.

The GLC controversy appeared to be reflected in the comparatively low vote for Mr Livingstone in the first ballot. The result in the first round was Mr Livingstone 31 votes, Miss Abbott 26, Mr John Ryan

15, and Mr Anthony West three.

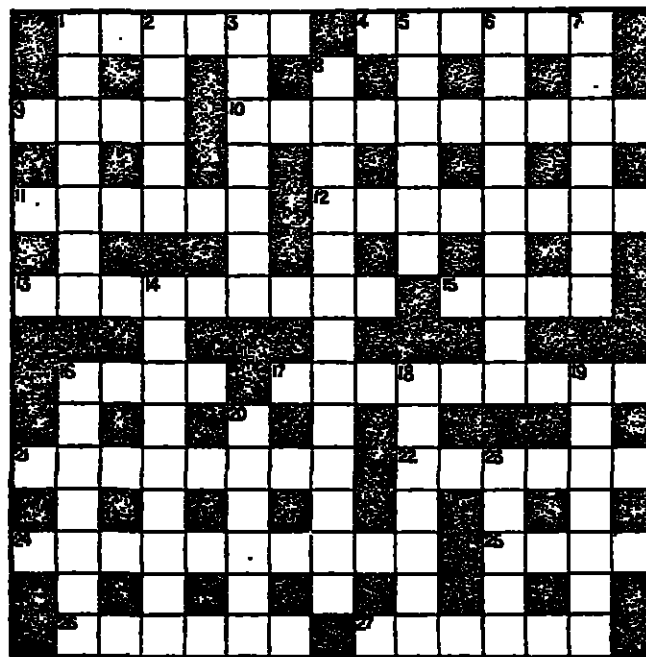
Mr Livingstone said that he thought a block of 25 delegates to the Brent East's general committee had been against his candidature long before the rate-capping dispute.

Mr Livingstone stressed after yesterday's selection meeting that he was not worried about legal action from Mr Freeson. He said the resolution procedure had been so correct that "even Lord Denning would find it impossible to fault."

A former Government minister, Miss Joan Lester, was last night adopted as prospective Labour candidate in the Eccles constituency.

GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,222

AUDREUS



ACROSS

- 1 Outspoken guide? (6).
- 4 Harry is crazy about the artist getting rather superior? (8).
- 9 A small cut but it's a bargain? (4).
- 10 The fellow having to use the telephone is withholding information? (8, 2).
- 11 The book's come back with the cover dull? (6).
- 12 Determined our steel production? (6).
- 13 ... with minute accuracy before getting round (that's right) to the charge? (8).
- 15 How to address Sir? (4).
- 16 It's a bit of a laugh, the learner giving instruction to the dog? (4).
- 17 Elusive tree voices, nothing lost by not telling? (9).
- 21 Many get taken in by introduction to bar? (8).
- 22 Girl had pen to swap? (6).
- 24 Daily over northern trip, in Wales? (10).
- 25 Too much of a meal, sorry? (4).
- 26 Do love to be beside the sea — not a hope? (6).
- 27 Be in contact this time, become a member? (6).

DOWN

- 1 He gives Brown a turn, coming in the entrance? (7).
- 2 One sorely affected is about to be put off? (5).
- 3 It's a hundred-to-one a hundred girls will all be chumpers? (7).
- 5 Stop, take a b-break? (6).
- 6 Did the staff come in last month after her divorce? (8).
- 7 He can't accept a man like Thomas? (7).
- 8 Look away! It could be — eel — ever so nasty? (5, 4, 4).
- 14 Most of the street is at the party and it's getting louder? (8).
- 16 Took the initiative after being injured, and dashed? (7).
- 18 Changed colour again when the note was brought in — been weeping? (3, 4).
- 19 What is meat in Latin — canine, boy? (7).
- 20 A craze to hide the mineral? (6).
- 23 That instrument dad is holding — one on which the Japanese play? (5).

SOLUTION (left) TO PRIZE PUZZLE 17,215

Winner of this week's £20 prize is J. M. Haslam, of 25 Meadoway, Rotton, Wirral, Merseyside. Runners-up (£10 book token each) are: Kevin Graham, of 4 Woodlands View, Cleadon, Sunderland; Mrs Monica Boothroyd, of Lawnswood Cottage, 41 Wotton Road, Exeter; and Ms Caroline Skinner, of 126 Gloucester Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

Union immunities plans

Continued from page one

eral election manifesto is Labour's commitment to remove all US nuclear bases from Britain.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Party leader, has recently said he hopes this can be achieved within a year of Labour taking office.

Mr Hattersley, however, has made it clear that he wishes to clear up ambiguities in the policy before making any detailed commitments.

Labour defence experts are determined that the policy should apply only to four bases — the submarine pens in Scotland where the Trident will be docked, the air base at Alconbury where the F11 nuclear fighter bombers are based, and the two cruise missile canyons, Mlesworth and Greenham Common.

The party's supporters within CND will not be satisfied with this list, which excludes dozens of other US bases or listening posts used as back-up for the US nuclear capability.

The party leaders are confident that they will win on both counts, but they are concentrating at the moment on the issues raised on economic policy.

The problem of 'own goals' by Labour is also being watched. Mr Hattersley included last week's blocking of Social Democratic leader, Dr David Owen, from speaking at the despatch box in the Commons under this heading.

He attacked the Militant organisation of the strike by schoolchildren as 'saboteurs' of Labour's election chances.

THE WEATHER

Mainly dry

FRONTAL troughs will move southwards across Britain during the day bringing rain to most areas.

London: SE. Part S. England, Channel south-east. Partly cloudy, 4-10; rain at 10; 11-12; 13-14; 15-16; 17-18; 19-20; 21-22; 23-24; 25-26; 27-28; 29-30; 31-32; 33-34; 35-36; 37-38; 39-40; 41-42; 43-44; 45-46; 47-48; 49-50; 51-52; 53-54; 55-56; 57-58; 59-60; 61-62; 63-64; 65-66; 67-68; 69-70; 71-72; 73-74; 75-76; 77-78; 79-80; 81-82; 83-84; 85-86; 87-88; 89-90; 91-92; 93-94; 95-96; 97-98; 99-100; 101-102; 103-104; 105-106; 107-108; 109-110; 111-112; 113-114; 115-116; 117-118; 119-120; 121-122; 123-124; 125-126; 127-128; 129-130; 131-132; 133-134; 135-136; 137-138; 139-140; 141-142; 143-144; 145-146; 147-148; 149-150; 151-152; 153-154; 155-156; 157-158; 159-160; 161-162; 163-164; 165-166; 167-168; 169-170; 171-172; 173-174; 175-176; 177-178; 179-180; 181-182; 183-184; 185-186; 187-188; 189-190; 191-192; 193-194; 195-196; 197-198; 199-200; 201-202; 203-204; 205-206; 207-208; 209-210; 211-212; 213-214; 215-216; 217-218; 219-220; 221-222; 223-224; 225-226; 227-228; 229-230; 231-232; 233-234; 235-236; 237-238; 239-240; 241-242; 243-244; 245-246; 247-248; 249-250; 251-252; 253-254; 255-256; 257-258; 259-260; 261-262; 263-264; 265-266; 267-268; 269-270; 271-272; 273-274; 275-276; 277-278; 279-280; 281-282; 283-284; 285-286; 287-288; 289-290; 291-292; 293-294; 295-296; 297-298; 299-300; 301-302; 303-304; 305-306; 307-308; 309-310; 311-312; 313-314; 315-316; 317-318; 319-320; 321-322; 323-324; 325-326; 327-328; 329-330; 331-332; 333-334; 335-336; 337-338; 339-340; 341-342; 343-344; 345-346; 347-348; 349-350; 351-352; 353-354; 355-356; 357-358; 359-360; 361-362; 363-364; 365-366; 367-368; 369-370; 371-372; 373-374; 375-376; 377-378; 379-380; 381-382; 383-384; 385-386; 387-388; 389-390; 391-392; 393-394; 395-396; 397-398; 399-400; 401-402; 403-404; 405-406; 407-408; 409-410; 411-412; 413-414; 415-416; 417-418; 419-420; 421-422; 423-424; 425-426; 427-428; 429-430; 431-432; 433-434; 435-436; 437-438; 439-440; 441-442; 443-444; 445-446; 447-448; 449-450; 451-452; 453-454; 455-456; 457-458; 459-460; 461-462; 463-464; 465-466; 467-468; 469-470; 471-472; 473-474; 475-476; 477-478; 479-480; 481-482; 483-484; 485-486; 487-488; 489-490; 491-492; 493-494; 495-496; 497-498; 499-500; 501-502; 503-504; 505-506; 507-508; 509-510; 511-512; 513-514; 515-516; 517-518; 519-520; 521-522; 523-524; 525-526; 527-528; 529-530; 531-532; 533-534; 535-536; 537-538; 539-540; 541-542; 543-544; 545-546; 547-548; 549-550; 551-552; 553-554; 555-556; 557-558; 559-560; 561-562; 563-564; 565-566; 567-568; 569-570; 571-572; 573-574; 575-576; 577-578; 579-580; 581-582; 583-584; 585-586; 587-588; 589-590; 591-592; 593-594; 595-596; 597-598; 599-600; 601-602; 603-604; 605-606; 607-608; 609-610; 611-612; 613-614; 615-616; 617-618; 619-620; 621-622; 623-624; 625-626; 627-628; 629-630; 631-632; 633-634; 635-636; 637-638; 639-640; 641-642; 643-644; 645-646; 647-648; 649-650; 651-652; 653-654; 655-656; 657-658; 659-660; 661-662; 663-664; 665-666; 667-668; 669-670; 671-672; 673-674; 675-676; 677-678; 679-680; 681-682; 683-684; 685-686; 687-688; 689-690; 691-692; 693-694; 695-696; 697-698; 699-700; 701-702; 703-704; 705-706; 707-708; 709-710; 711-712; 713-714; 715-716; 717-718; 719-720; 721-722; 723-724; 725-726; 727-728; 729-730; 731-732; 733-734; 735-736; 737-738; 739-740; 741-742; 743-744; 745-746; 747-748; 749-750; 751-752; 753-754; 755-756; 757-758; 759-760; 761-762; 763-764; 765-766; 767-768; 769-770; 771-772; 773-774; 775-776; 777-778; 779-780; 781-782; 783-784; 785-786; 787-788; 789-790; 791-792; 793-794; 795-796; 797-798; 799-800; 801-802; 803-804; 805-806; 807-808; 809-810; 811-812; 813-814; 815-816; 817-818; 819-820; 821-822; 823-824; 825-826; 827-828; 829-830; 831-832; 833-834; 835-836; 837-838; 839-840; 841-842; 843-844; 845-846; 847-848; 849-850; 851-852; 853-854; 855-856; 857-858; 859-860; 861-862; 863-864; 865-866; 867-868; 869-870; 871-872; 873-874; 875-876; 877-878; 879-880; 881-882; 883-884; 885-886; 887-888; 889-890; 891-892; 893-894; 895-896; 897-898; 899-900; 901-902; 903-904; 905-906; 907-908; 909-910; 911-912; 913-914; 915-916; 917-918; 919-920; 921-922; 923-924; 925-926; 927-928; 929-930; 931-932; 933-934; 935-936; 937-938; 939-940; 941-942; 943-944; 945-946; 947-948; 949-950; 951-952; 953-954; 955-956; 957-958; 959-960; 961-962; 963-964; 965-966; 967-968; 969-970; 971-972; 973-974; 975-976; 977-978; 979-980; 981-982; 983-984; 985-986; 987-988; 989-990; 991-992; 993-994; 995-996; 997-998; 999-1000; 1001-1002; 1003-1004; 1005-1006; 1007-1008; 1009-1010; 1011-1012; 1013-1014; 1015-1016; 1017-1018; 1019-1020; 1021-1022; 1023-1024; 1025-1026; 1027-1028; 1029-1030; 1031-1032; 1033-1034; 1035-1036; 1037-1038; 1039-1040; 1041-1042; 1043-1044; 1045-1046; 1047-1048; 1049-1050; 1051-1052; 1053-1054; 1055-1056; 1057-1058; 1059-1060; 1061-1062; 1063-1064; 1065-1066; 1067-1068; 1069-1070; 1071-1072; 1073-1074; 1075-1076; 1077-1078; 1079-1080; 1081-1082; 1083-1084; 1085-1086; 1087-1088; 1089-1090; 1091-1092; 1093-1094; 1095-1096; 1097-1098; 1099-1100; 1101-1102; 1103-1104; 1105-1106; 1107-1108; 1109-1110; 1111-1112; 1113-1114; 1115-1116; 1117-1118; 1119-1120; 1121-1122; 1123-1124; 1125-1126; 1127-1128; 1129-1130; 1131-1132; 1133-1134; 1135-1136; 1137-1138; 1139-1140; 1141-1142; 1143-1144; 1145-1146; 1147-1148; 1149-1150; 1151-1152; 1153-1154; 1155-1156; 1157-1158; 1159-1160; 1161-1162; 1163-1164;